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A HORROR CLASSIC

TERRORE TALES

THE BIZARRE EVIL OF

**THE HORROR
DOLL**



AN AX SWINGS

AND

BLOODY HEADS ROLL

IN

**THE CORPSE
FOR A COFFIN**

PLUS

SATAN'S DEMONS

ZOMBIE'S VAULT

WITCHES' COVEN



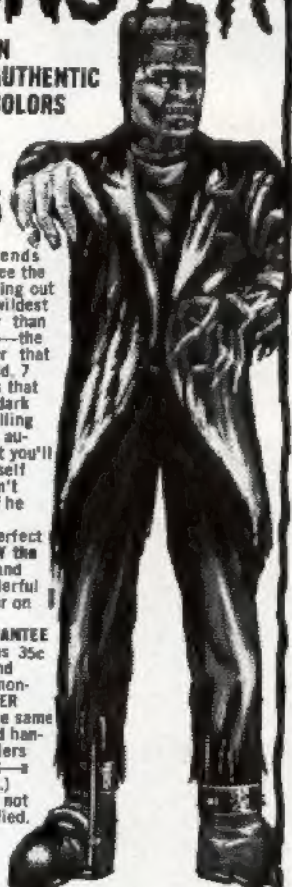
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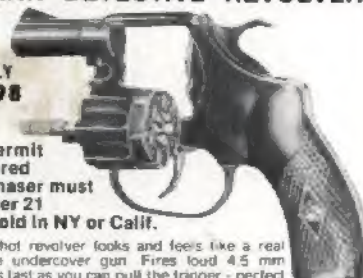
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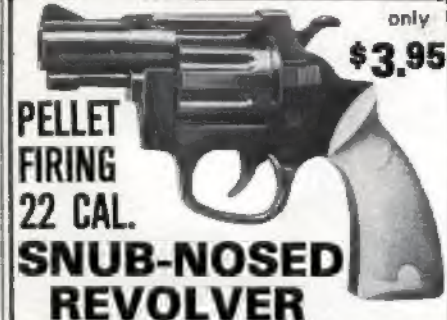


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TERROR TALES

VOL. 9 NO. 1

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THE HORROR DOLL

HENRY SETON BEGAN TO DIE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 8, 1944 - IN A THATCHED HUT DEEP IN THE INTERIOR OF HAITI. BUT NEITHER HE, NOR JAMES BURNS KNEW WHAT WAS TO COME - THEN...

GET OUT! IF I EVER FIND YOU HERE AGAIN, I'LL RAM YOUR FROGS HEARTS AND SNAKE BONES DOWN YOUR SCRAWNY THROAT!

SETON, DON'T!

THIS IS AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION! IF WE PAY BLACK-MAIL TO EVERY LOCAL WITCH DOCTOR WE MEET, WE'LL SPEND OUR TIME DOING NOTHING ELSE - MOVE, YOU!

I GO! BUT NOT FAR! I WILL WAIT SO THAT I MAY HEAR YOUR SCREAM WHEN YOU DIE! AT DAWN, IN THREE DAYS!

WHEW! DID YOU SEE HIS FACE? SETON, THAT WAS A MISTAKE. THESE PEOPLE TAKE VOOODOO SERIOUSLY!

I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU AND BURNS HAVE WORKED IN HAITI BEFORE AND I HAVEN'T. YOU TOLD ME YOU'VE SEEN SOME STRANGE THINGS. DON'T BE CHILDISH, WILSON!



IF I KNOW KUMA'S TYPE, HE'LL MAKE A WAX DOLL TO REPRESENT YOU, AND WHAT HE'LL DO TO THAT DOLL WON'T BE PLEASANT!

AND WHAT HE DOES TO THAT DOLL WILL HAPPEN TO ME, EH? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE LET HIM BLACKMAIL US INTO LETTING HIM PROTECT US FROM THE JUNGLE SPIRITS! NONSENSE!

BUT FOR A FEW SMALL COINS, ALL MIGHT HAVE BEEN WELL! HOWEVER, THE EVIL GOD HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION! THAT NIGHT WILSON AWAKENED BURNS!

WILSON! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

SETON'S NOT IN HIS BUNK! AND I FOUND THIS BAT NAILED TO THE DOOR OF HIS TENT! ONE OF US IS MARKED FOR DEATH!

THERE WAS A WIND SIGNING THROUGH THE TREES WHEN THEY FOUND SETON! A WHISPERING WIND THAT SEEMED TO CALL SOFTLY... LIKE AN UNEARTHLY VOICE!

THERE HE IS! THE FOOL! HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HIMSELF LOST! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

THE THING TO DO IS TO ASK HIM!

SETON! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? YOU'RE A GOOD MILE FROM CAMP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS JUNGLE?

SOMEONE CALLED TO ME! I... I FOLLOWED THE VOICE!

VOICE? BURNS, TOUCH HIM! HE'S BURNING WITH FEVER!

SO THAT'S IT! WE'D BETTER TAKE HIM BACK TO CAMP AND GIVE HIM A STRONG SHOT OF QUININE!

THAT NIGHT SETON TOSSED RESTLESSLY! HE MUMBLED INCOHERENT WORDS! BY MORNING HE WAS DELIRIOUS!

THE QUININE HASN'T HELPED! WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE! WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK CAMP AND GET HIM TO A DOCTOR!

THE SOONER, THE BETTER! I'LL HAVE THE MEN PREPARE ALITTER!

BURNS! THE MEN ARE GONE! THEY MUST HAVE SEEN THE BAT!... THE DEATH SIGN!

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! THE TWO OF US COULD NEVER GET SETON TO THE DOCTOR IN TIME!

THE JUNGLE STILLNESS WAS
BROKEN SUDDENLY BY A
VOICE RAISED IN HORRIBLE
AGONY...

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH HIM?
IT CAN'T BE
FEVER!

WE KNOW, EVEN
IF WE DON'T
ADMIT IT. A MAN
MIGHT SCREAM
LIKE THAT IF HE
WERE TORTURED,
OR IF SOMEONE
WAS TORTURING
A WAX DOLL
MADE IN HIS
IMAGE...

SURELY YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
THAT KUMA IS
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THIS?

NO... I GUESS NOT!
IF ONLY WE HAD
SOME MORPHINE,
WE COULD AT LEAST
DEADEN THE PAIN
THE PAIN FOR
HIM!

THE
PAIN...
I CAN'T
STAND IT!
AIEEE!

BUT WHAT WAS THERE TO
DO? THE FIRST DAY SETON
SUFFERED UNTOLD AGONY!
THE SECOND DAY WAS
EVEN WORSE!

WE CAN'T HELP
HIM UNLESS WE
SURRENDER
ALL REASON
AND APPEAL
TO KUMA
AND HIS
VOODOO
GODS!

VOODOO! WE LAUGH
AT IT, AND IT REACHES
OUT OF THE DAWN
OF TIME TO KILL US!
IT'S REAL, WILSON!

ONE HUNDRED
SEVEN. NO ONE
CAN HAVE A
FEVER THAT
HIGH... AND
LIVE!

UNLESS
THE FEVER
IS INTENDED
TO TORTURE,
NOT TO
KILL. WILSON,
WE CAN'T
LET THIS
GO ON!

KUMA SAID
SETON WOULD
DIE AT DAWN
OF THE THIRD
DAY. THAT'S
ONLY A FEW
HOURS FROM
NOW! WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO?

I'M GOING TO KUMA'S
HUT. I'M GOING TO ASK
HIM TO GIVE ME THE
DEVIL DOLL... IF THERE
IS ONE. IN MY HANDS
IT WOULD BE HARM-
LESS! YOU STAY
WITH SETON!

BURNS WAS A MAN OF SCIENCE, AND YET
HE SOON SAT CROSS LEGGED BEFORE AN
EVIL SMELLING BLAZE... IN CONVERSATION
WITH A PAINTED SAVAGE...

KUMA... WHAT DO YOU
WANT... MONEY? I'LL
ADMIT SETON WAS
A FOOL... BUT IS
A FOOL
WORTH
KILLING?

BUT I HAVE NOT
BEEN NEAR YOUR CAMP!
HOW COULD I KILL
HIM?



I BEAR NO GRUDGE
WITH SETON. THERE
IS NO DEVIL DOLL TO
KILL HIM HERE!

YOU WOULDN'T BE FOOL
ENOUGH TO KEEP ONE
HERE. YOU KNOW THE
LAW FORBIDS THEM!

KUMA... I'LL PAY YOU
WHATEVER YOU ASK
TO STOP THIS BAD
MAGIC!

I ADMIT TO NONE OF
THIS. IF YOUR PIG OF A
FRIEND LIES DYING, IT IS
BY A MAGIC OTHER
THAN MINE!



KUMA STUCK TO HIS STORY
BUT BURNS DIDN'T BELIEVE
A WORD OF IT. THAT'S WHY HE
LINGERED IN THE AREA...
LATER...

DAWN
WAS STILL
AN HOUR
AWAY... THE
HOUR
SETON
WAS TO
DIE... BURNS
HAD TO
WORK
FAST...

I WAS RIGHT!
HE'S GOT THE
DEVIL DOLL!...
HE'S PLACING
IT IN THE
FIRE...



THE FIRE!
SETON'S FEVER!
OF COURSE...
IT'S THE SAME!

WHAT AGONIES SETON ENDURED IN THOSE
MOMENTS, BURNS WAS TO LEARN LATER...
HIS CHANCE CAME... AS KUMA SUDDENLY,
LEFT THE FIRE...



THIS IS WHERE
HE HIDES THE
DOLL. I'LL NEED
SOMETHING TO
DIG WITH...

OOPS! I HIT
SOMETHING
WITH MY
STICK!

THE
DOLL...
I'VE
GOT
IT!

OVERHEAD A WILD FOWL CROWED TO
HERALD THE ARRIVAL OF DAWN! BUT
BURNS HAD THE DEVIL DOLL IN HIS
POSSESSION... TOO LATE!

WILSON... WHAT
HAPPENED? WAS
IT THE FEVER?

NO! THE FEVER
INCREASED... HE
BECAME A WILD
MAN / I COULDN'T
HOLD HIM...

HE RUSHED OUT AND FELL
ON THE POINT OF A PICK-
AXE... ONE OF THE MEN
HAD LEFT...

PIERCED
HIS CHEST RIGHT
UNDER THE HEART!
IT HAPPENED AT
DAWN, DIDN'T
IT?

NO... I DID... WITH A STICK!
WHILE I WAS DIGGING UP
THE DOLL I PUNCTURED
IT'S CHEST BY ACCI-
DENT! STRANGE
COINCIDENCE,
ISN'T IT...

YES! BUT
HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! SETON
DIDN'T KNOW HOW RIGHT HE
WAS WHEN HE SAID THAT
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
THE DEVIL DOLL WOULD
HAPPEN TO HIM...

THAT HOLE IN THE
DOLL'S CHEST...
THAT'S EXACTLY
WHERE THE PICK
PENETRATED
SETON'S CHEST!
DID KUMA
MAKE THAT
HOLE?

THE END

THE MUMMY WAS FOUND IN EGYPT ON JULY 10, 1935. THAT DAY THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIRST SAW THE FACE OF RE-IMHOTEP, THE MAN WHO WAS A

LIVING CORPSE



THE DISCOVERERS WERE PETER LINDSEY AND PROFESSOR CARL ERICSON. AND THEY STARED IN PUZZLED WONDER AT THEIR STRANGE FIND.

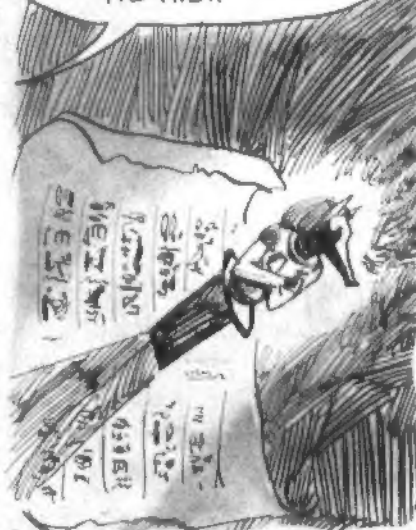
LINDSEY AND ERICSON HAD BEEN SEEKING THE TOMB OF A KING. BUT WHO EVER THIS HAD BEEN, HIS END HAD NOT BEEN PLEASANT.

THERE ARE DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCH DAGGERS BUT NO ONE HAS EVER FOUND ONE BEFORE. THIS IS A SACRIFICIAL DAGGER-USED BY THE PRIESTS OF ANUBIS, THE GOD OF DEATH!

I DON'T GET IT. THIS ISN'T A TOMB AT ALL. IT'S JUST A CAVE DUG INTO THE EARTH!

AND THIS MUMMY- IT'S TWISTED-CONTORTED-- AS IF IT WAS IN AGONY--

WELL! WE DIDN'T SEE THIS WHEN WE BROKE IN-- A DAGGER- WITH THE FIGURE OF ANUBIS ON ITS HILT!



THEN LINDSEY BEGAN TO INTERPRET THE HIEROGLYPHICS ON THE ANCIENT PAPYRUS WHICH HAD BEEN PINNED TO THE EARTH WALL BY THE DAGGER.

LISTEN TO THIS-- WE THE PRIESTS OF ANUBIS PLACE HERE THE BODY IMHOTEP WHO DARED TO GAZE UPON AND LOVE AKNAHTON, DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOH--

PRINCESS AKNAHTON / HER TOMB WAS FOUND LAST YEAR. HER MUMMY IS ON DISPLAY AT THE CAIRO MUSEUM!

THAT'S NOT ALL... LET ME GO ON! REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE JUDGMENT OF ANUBIS, THIS DOG VIOLATED THE TEMPLE, TO STEAL THE BOOK OF THE DEAD... THAT HE MIGHT RESTORE THE PRINCESS TO LIFE WHEN SHE SICKENED AND DIED. FOR THAT WE PLACE HIM HERE... STILL ALIVE... AND WITH HIM, THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!

THERE WERE OTHER PAPYRUS SCROLLS IN THE CAVE! LINDSEY EXCITEDLY REACHED FOR THE ONE WITH THE SIGNIFICANT MARKINGS!

THE BOOK OF RAMA / THE BOOK OF THE DEAD / THE SECRET OF HOW TO RESTORE THE DEAD TO LIFE!

DON'T OPEN IT, LINDSEY! TAKE IT EASY!

CERTAINLY YOU'RE NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, ARE YOU, PROFESSOR? YOU'RE A MAN OF SCIENCE!

WE'LL READ THE SCROLL LATER... WHEN WE'VE TAKEN THE MUMMY OUT OF THIS GRAVE!

DOES THIS SCROLL FRIGHTEN YOU, SIR? SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT CAN RESTORE THE DEAD TO LIFE...

NO! BUT I STILL FORBID YOU TO READ IT NOW! WE'LL STUDY IT... LATER!

AHMED / TELL YOUR MEN TO REMOVE THE MUMMY TO THE TENT!

AT ONCE, ERICSON, EFFENDI!



A MUMMY, A DAGGER,
AND THE SCROLLS OF
PAPYRUS WERE TAKEN
TO THE TENT!

SHALL
WE
START
NOW,
SIR?

NO, NOT YET,
LINDSEY! I'M
GOING OUT! WHY
DON'T YOU JUST
RELAX AWHILE!

ERICSON WALKED
OUT INTO THE NIGHT!
FOR THE REST OF HIS
LIFE HE REGRETTED
HE WAS NOT THERE
WHEN PETER LINDSEY
SUCCUMBED TO THE
CALL OF THE UNKNOWN!

THE BOOK OF THE
DEAD! I'LL READ IT
ANYWAY! WHAT HARM
CAN IT DO? ERICSON
IS UNNECESSARILY
CAUTIOUS!

LINDSEY
SPOKE
WORDS
THAT
HADN'T
BEEN
HEARD
FOR
FIFTY
LONG
CENTURIES!
BY EARS
THAT
SHOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
HEAR!

RISE ONCE
MORE BY THE
FLAME OF LIFE
REKINDLED BY
GREAT ANUBIS.

...HANDS THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO MOVE... TO SEIZE
UPON THE ANCIENT DAGGER OF
ANUBIS WHICH LAY NEARBY...

TO THEN,
TAKE CALM
POSSESSION
OF THE
SCROLL
WHICH A
STARING,
OPEN-MOUTH-
ED FEAR
RIDDEN
LINDSEY
WAS TOO
DUMB-
FOUNDED
TO READ...

AND THE LEGS WHICH HAD NOT STOOD
UPRIGHT SINCE THE BUILDING OF THE
PYRAMIDS, NOW STALKED FROM THE
TENT WITH NEW FOUND STRENGTH!

WHEN ERICSON RETURNED, HE FOUND LINDSEY COWERING IN A CORNER OF THE TENT... ALMOST OUT OF HIS MIND WITH PANIC AND HYSTERIA

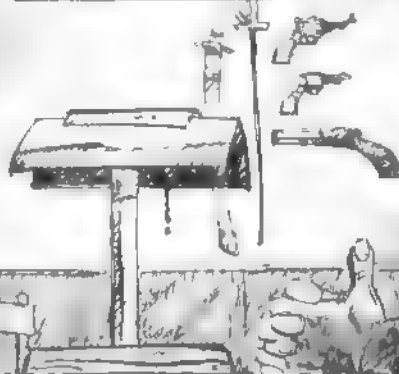
HE'S ALIVE! HE STOOD UP AND WALKED! I SAW HIM.

THE DAGGER---SCROLL---MUMMY---ALL GONE! AFTER ALL THAT RESEARCH AND BACKBREAKING WORK--- THEY'RE GONE!

ONLY A HANDPRINT REMAINED, ETCHED IN THE DUST OF CENTURIES. THE MIDDLE FINGER BORE A CRESCENT SCAR

PETER LINDSEY NEVER RECOVERED! HE WAS HOPELESSLY INSANE. CARL ERICSON REVIEWED THE STRANGE SITUATION FOR THE CAIRO CHIEF OF POLICE!

NO, NO, PROFESSOR ERICSON! A MUMMY THAT WALKS--- RIDICULOUS! PUT YOURSELF IN MY PLACE! WOULD YOU SEARCH FOR A MAN WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR FIVE THOUSAND YEARS?



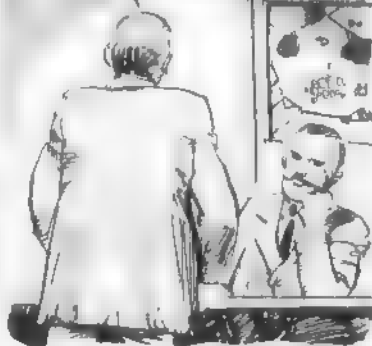
BUT CAPTAIN MAHMOUD, THERE WAS A DAGGER, A SCROLL... A MUMMY! YOU HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF MY WORKMEN!

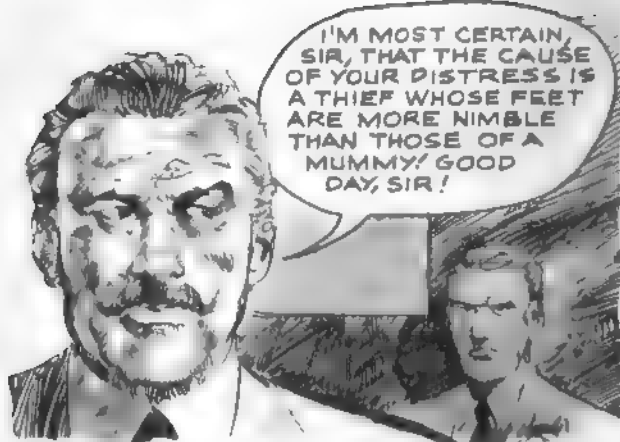
THE THEFT OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS IS NOT UNUSUAL IN THIS COUNTRY! YOURS IS SUCH A CASE!

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN POOR LINDSEY, CAPTAIN? HE READ THE BOOK OF THE DEAD AND SOMETHING HAPPENED SOON AFTER WHICH DROVE HIM INSANE!

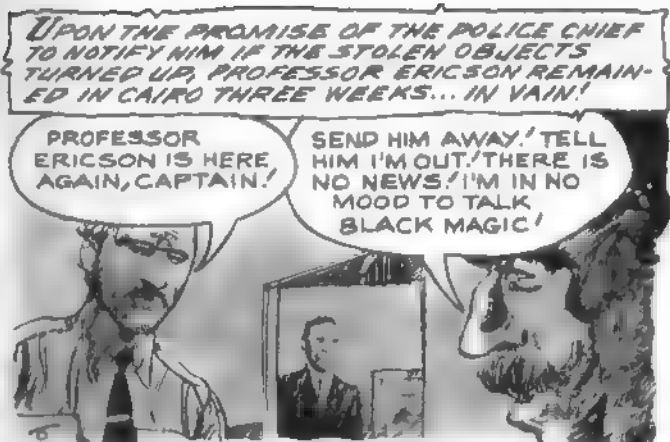
MERELY YOUR ASSUMPTION, PROFESSOR!

YOUR MR. LINDSEY, NO DOUBT, EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE SUN A BIT TOO LONG. HIS STORY CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS NOTHING MORE THAN THE RAVINGS OF A MADMAN!





I'M MOST CERTAIN, SIR, THAT THE CAUSE OF YOUR DISTRESS IS A THIEF WHOSE FEET ARE MORE NIMBLE THAN THOSE OF A MUMMY! GOOD DAY, SIR!

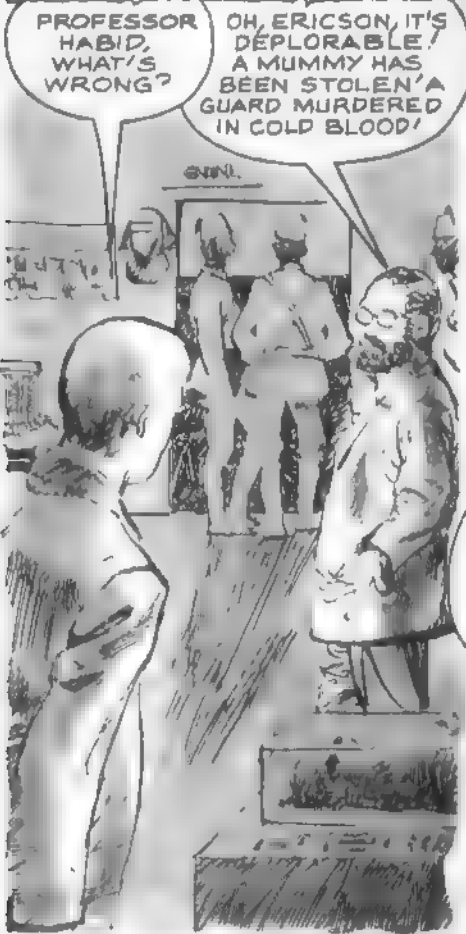


UPON THE PROMISE OF THE POLICE CHIEF TO NOTIFY HIM IF THE STOLEN OBJECTS TURNED UP, PROFESSOR ERICSON REMAINED IN CAIRO THREE WEEKS... IN VAIN!

PROFESSOR ERICSON IS HERE AGAIN, CAPTAIN!

SEND HIM AWAY! TELL HIM I'M OUT! THERE IS NO NEWS! I'M IN NO MOOD TO TALK BLACK MAGIC!

ON A HUNCH, ERICSON VISITED THE CAIRO MUSEUM..



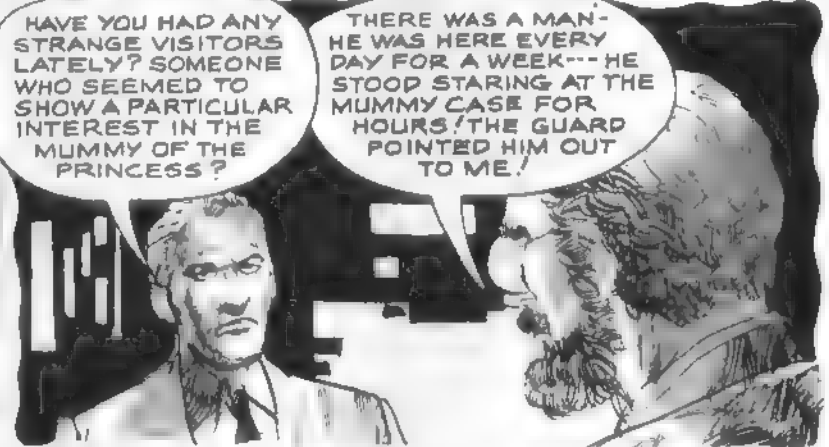
PROFESSOR HABID, WHAT'S WRONG?

OH, ERICSON, IT'S DEPLORABLE! A MUMMY HAS BEEN STOLEN! A GUARD MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD!



THE STOLEN MUMMY--- COULD IT HAVE BEEN THAT OF PRINCESS AKNAHTON?

W-WHY YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW!



HAVE YOU HAD ANY STRANGE VISITORS LATELY? SOMEONE WHO SEEMED TO SHOW A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE MUMMY OF THE PRINCESS?

THERE WAS A MAN- HE WAS HERE EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK--- HE STOOD STARING AT THE MUMMY CASE FOR HOURS! THE GUARD POINTED HIM OUT TO ME!



HE WAS A STRANGE ONE, THAT FELLOW! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE, HE SEEMED SO INCREDIBLY OLD---AND YET, HIS EYES...A YOUNG MAN'S EYES!



AH, THE WALKING MUMMY MAN!
I SUPPOSE YOUR ANCIENT FRIEND
IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS?!

MAY I SEE
THE WEAPON
USED TO KILL
THE
GUARD?

*THE MURDER WEAPON WAS
BROUGHT IT WAS THE SACRIFICIAL
DAGGER OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
GOD, ANUBIS!*

CAPTAIN, THAT
IS THE DAGGER
WHICH WAS
TAKEN FROM
MY TENT IN
THE DESERT!

THEN YOUR
THIEF IS NOW
A MURDERER!
WE'LL CATCH
HIM! YOU MAY
COUNT ON
THAT!



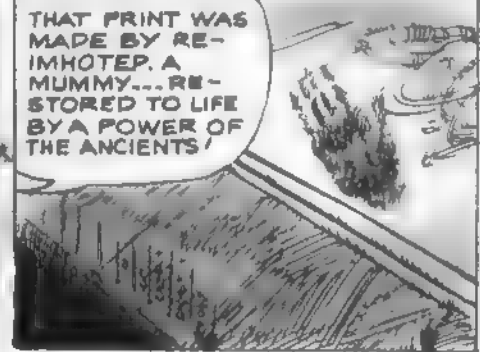
HE MADE A MIS-
TAKE OF LEAVING
A HANDPRINT ON THE
SIDE OF THE SAR-
COPHAGUS. IT
SHALL HELP
CONVICT
HIM!

I'VE SEEN THAT
HANDPRINT
BEFORE!



*THERE IT WAS AGAIN! THE
CRESCENT ON THE MIDDLE
FINGER.*

THAT PRINT WAS
MADE BY RE-
IMHOTEP. A
MUMMY... RE-
STORED TO LIFE
BY A POWER OF
THE ANCIENTS!



OF COURSE
ERICSON MET
WITH RIDICULE
AT THIS ASSERT-
ION THE MUMMY
THIEF-MUR-
DERER WAS
NEVER CAUGHT!
CAN IT BE THAT
RE-IMHOTEP
AND PRINCESS
AKNANTON ARE
NOW MINGLING
WITH THE PEOPLE
OF A WORLD FIVE
THOUSAND YEARS
BEYOND THEIR
ORIGINAL LIFETIMES.



THE
END

THE WITCHES COVEN



MATTY WAS LEFT ALONE AS THE MOON-LIGHT TURNED THE WOODS INTO A TERROR-LADEN WORLD OF MACABRE SHADOWS...

FOR A LONG TIME MATTY STUMBLED THROUGH THE OVERWHELMING DARKNESS, THEN...

OPEN UP! OPEN THE DOOR!

BANG

I-I'M SCARED! I CAN'T STAY HERE! GOTTA FIND A HOUSE SOMEPLACE! ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

A LIGHT! THERE'S A HOUSE!

WHO ARE YE? WHAT DO YE WANT ON THIS ACCURSED NIGHT?

PLEASE LET ME COME IN! JUST GIVE ME A PLACE TO SLEEP! ANYWHERE!

ANY OTHER NIGHT AN' YE COULD ENTER! BUT THIS IS THE NIGHT OF THE DARK OF THE MOON! THE DREADFUL NIGHT WHEN ALL THE CREATURES OF EVIL HOLD CONCLAVE! YE'RE CONTAMINATED WITH EVIL FOR BEING ABROAD, NOW, GO-- AFORE I SET THE DOGS ON YE!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT! ALL I KNOW IS I'M AFRAID OF THESE WOODS! I MUST FIND A PLACE TO STAY--

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, DEEP IN THE WOODS, THE BAND OF EVIL SISTERS, THE WITCHES, HELD CONCLAVE, SELECTING THEIR WITCH QUEEN...

SISTERS, IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON!

MONSTERS OF THE OUTER DARKNESS! BEAR WITNESS! WE CHOOSE OUR QUEEN!

IT IS SHE! IT IS SHE! SHE IS OUR QUEEN!

COME, SISTER!
WE LEAD YOU TO
THE HOUSE OF
DARKNESS!

AYE, SISTER! THERE WE
WE PLOT AND PLAN! FOR
WE MUST PAY TRIBUTE
TO OUR MASTER-- THE--
DEVIL--

STANDING IN THE WOODS WAS THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE EVIL SISTERS' INSIDE...

SEE, THIS IS
THE WITCH
TREASURE!
'TIS TAINTED
BY
EVIL!

AND WITH THIS TREASURE,
OUR PART OF IT, YE
SHALL BUY A MORTAL
SOUL TO PAY OUR
MASTER!

IT IS THE LAW
OF THE OUTER
DARKNESS!
ONLY BY GIVING
A MORTAL SOUL
TO THE MASTER
CAN WE SURVIVE!

FEAR NOT SISTERS! I WILL
CARRY OUT MY DUTY, AND DO
IT WELL! NOW IT IS TIME FOR
YOU TO DEPART! I WILL NOT
FAIL YOU!

WITH THIS I SHALL BUY A
MORTAL SOUL--FOR THERE
ARE FEW WHO CAN RESIST
THE HUNGER OF GREED!

MEANWHILE...

I MUST'VE BEEN WALKING FOR
HOURS! THERE'S A HOUSE! MAYBE
THE PEOPLE WILL LET ME IN! I
CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER!

STAGGERING TO THE DOOR, MATTY KNOCKED, AND...

I HEARD YOU
COMING UP THE
PATH! YOU ARE
WELCOME,
STRANGER!

THANKS! I
DON'T THINK
I COULD'VE
HELD OUT MUCH
LONGER!

I KNOW WELL THE FEAR THAT GRIPS YOUR
HEART IN THE DARKNESS! YOU'VE COME TO
THE RIGHT PLACE! PERHAPS, YOU WOULD
LIKE SOME FOOD?

YES... FOR MY
TRAVELS HAVE
MADE ME
HUNGRY!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

EAT WELL! I MUST
LOOK TO SOME THINGS
I'LL RETURN SOON!

SURE SURE I
UNDERSTAND!
THANKS FOR
THE FOOD!

THAT IS THE ONE! HE CAN
BE TEMPTED SO EASILY! I
SHALL BAIT THE TRAP
NOW!

I WILL BUY HIS SOUL WITH
THE BLOOD MONEY!

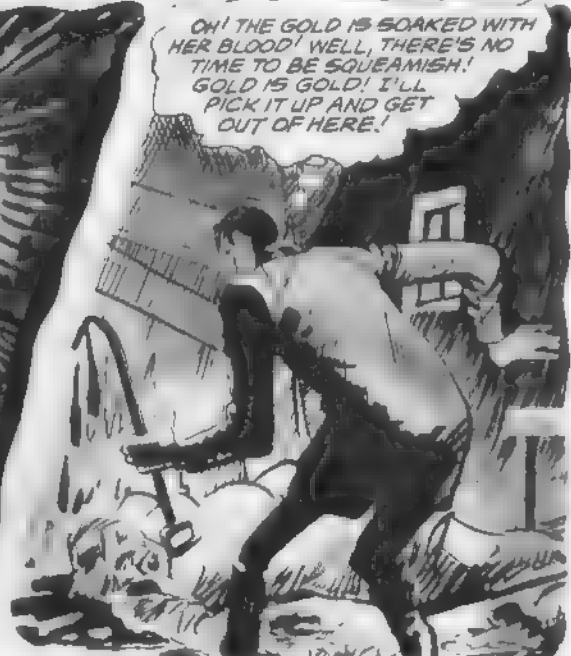
WOW! LOOK AT THE GOLD! THE OLD DAME
MUST BE LOADED! I WONDER... I COULD GET
HER RICHES EASY! NO ONE SAW ME COME--
SHE LIVES HERE ALONE! YEAH!
IT'S MY BE CHANCE!

THE POKER'LL DO IT, I'LL BELT HER OVER
THE HEAD--AND BY THE TIME THEY FIND
HER, I'LL BE GONE!

11/20/2000



OH! THE GOLD IS SOAKED WITH
HER BLOOD! WELL, THERE'S NO
TIME TO BE SQUEAMISH!
GOLD IS GOLD! I'LL
PICK IT UP AND GET
OUT OF HERE!





BLOOD ALL OVER MY HANDS TOO! I'LL WASH IT OFF AT THE FIRST STREAM! NOW I MUST GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!



BUT EVEN AS MATTY FLED FROM THE HOUSE, THE EVIL SISTERS APPEARED IN THE ROOM AND STOOD BY THE BODY OF THE QUEEN...

AWAKE, SISTER, AWAKE! DEATH IS NOT FOR THE LIKES OF US!

NAY! OUR ONLY DEATH IS BY THE FLAME!

SHE AWAKENS!



THE MORTAL FELL FOR MY RUSE! HE'S BARTERED HIS SOUL IN BLOOD!

AYE! HE SHALL BE OURS BY THE NEXT DARK OF THE MOON! THE FARMERS HAVE Banded TOGETHER--AND SEEK TO DESTROY US!

WE MUST FIRST DESTROY THEM! BLIGHT THEIR CROPS! SICK THEIR CATTLE!

AROUND THE STEAMING CAULDRON THE WITCHES CAPERED, AND AS BEFORE, THE NIGHT GREW HIDEOUS WITH THE TERROR OF FOUL CRIES AND WEIRD SHRIEKS...

SMOKE OF DARKNESS, BLIGHT ALL YE TOUCH!

VAPORS OF PLAGUE, SWEEP THE COUNTRYSIDE!

CAULDRON! CAULDRON! HEED OUR CRY! CROPS BLIGHT! CATTLE DIE!



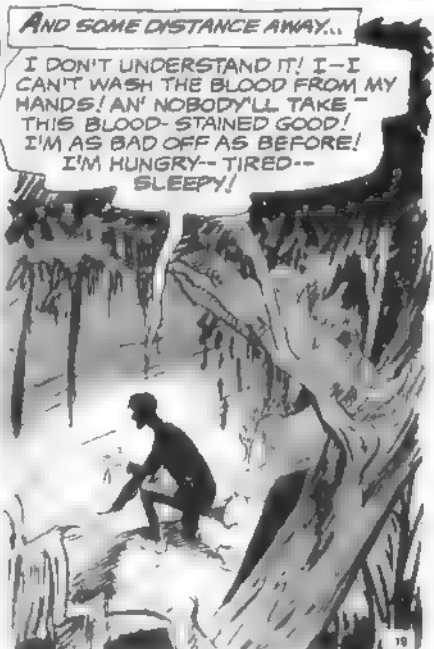
A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FARMER'S OF THE DISTRICT MET...

IT'S THE WORK OF WITCHES, I SAY! HEALTHY CATTLE GROWIN' SICK! THE CROPS WITHERED IN THE FIELD! FOLLOW ME--OR WE ARE LOST!

NEVER BELIEVED YE AFORE, LEM! FIGURED YE MIGHT BE TETCHED IN THE HEAD WITH ALL THIS TALK OF WITCHES! BUT NOW--



GOOD! AT THE NEXT DARK OF THE MOON, WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE--AN' GET RID OF 'EM FOR ALL TIME!



AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I--I CAN'T WASH THE BLOOD FROM MY HANDS! AN' NOBODY'LL TAKE THIS BLOOD-STAINED GOOD! I'M AS BAD OFF AS BEFORE! I'M HUNGRY--TIRED--SLEEPY!

AS MATTY FELL INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP...

SOON HE WILL
BE OURS!

NO MATTER WHERE
HE TRAVELS--OR
WHERE HE RUNS!

WHO'RE YOU?
I--NO! YOU'RE
DEAD! YOU'RE
DEAD!

I AM BEYOND DEATH! IT
IS YOU WHO HAVE PAID
THE FINAL PRICE!



WAIT! WAIT! IT WAS A
DREAM! THE MONEY! THE
BLOODSTAINS THAT
WON'T COME OFF! IT'S
ALL THE FAULT OF THE
GOLD! I MUST THROW
IT INTO THE DEEPEST
STREAM!



THERE! IT'S GONE! NOW
I'M FREE! HA! HA! HA! GOLD
IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
--BUT NOW WHEN I HAVE
IT--IT'S AS ACCURSED
AS A PLAGUE...

WITHOUT MONEY AGAIN, MATTY DRIFTED,
WANDERING AIMLESSLY! THEN,
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, ON THE NIGHT
OF THE DARK OF THE MOON...



AS THE STUNNED MATTY LOOKED AROUND...

YOUR TIME HAS COME, MATTY ROSS!
IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON! WE
HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU!



NO! NO! THIS
IS CRAZY! I--
I DON'T BELIEVE
IT! I MUST BE
DREAMIN'!



SEIZE
HIM!

AYE! THE
CONCLAVE
WAITS!

HELP!
HELP!

AND ONCE AGAIN, THE EVIL CONCLAVE WAS HELD, ATTENDED BY ALL THE GRISLY DEMI-CREATURES OF THE OUTER DARKNESS!

SUDDENLY...

SISTER!
WHAT IS
THAT
SOUND?

CLANG
CLANG

THE WITCH BELL,
THE FARMERS ARE
ON A WITCH HUNT!
FLEE FOR YOUR
LIVES, SISTERS!
IF THEY CAPTURE
ONE OF US --
SHE WILL DIE
IN THE
FLAMES!

YOU DIE! YOU DIE! IT IS A
LIFE FOR YOUR LIVES! YOUR
MORTAL SOUL FOR OURS! THAT IS
THE BARGAIN! YOU TOOK THE BLOOD-
MONEY-- YOU BELONG TO US!

THE FARMERS, LED LEM HAWLEY,
MARCHED THROUGH THE WOODS, BENT
ON DESTROYING THE WITCHES!

KEEP RINGIN' THE
BELLS, MEN! THAT
IS A SOUND THEY
CANNOT STAND!
THEN-- WHEN
I GIVE THE
SIGNAL--YOU
KNOW WHAT
TO DO!

AYE, HAWLEY!
THAT WE DO!

QUICKLY, SISTER'S
LET US FLEE-- TO THE
HOUSE OF
DARKNESS!

CLANG
CLANG

THE BELLS ARE
GROWING LOUDER! THERE
IS NO TIME TO LOSE!
BRING THE SACRIFICE
WITH US!

BUT AS THE WITCHES RAN TOWARDS
THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, THEY WERE
SPOTTED BY THE FARMERS...

SET FIRE ON ALL
SIDES! RING 'EM
IN!

AAAAH! WE
ARE DOOMED!

WITH WILD SHRIEKS, THE EVIL
SISTERS AND THEIR FOUL
COMPANIONS WERE DESTROYED
IN THE AVENGING FLAMES...

MATTY ROSS WAS SPARED BY THE
FLAMES! BUT HE PAID FOR HIS
GREED IN A STRANGE WAY... DOOMED
FOREVER TO THE DARKNESS HE
DREADED

IT'S DARK! IT'S DARK!
I'M AFRAID!

POOR MAN!
HE'S BEEN BLINDED
BY THE FLAMES!
HIS SIN MUST'VE
BEEN GREAT TO
HAVE EXACTED
SUCH A
PUNISHMENT!

FROM THE FEVERED BRAIN OF A MURDERER GREW AN IDEA THAT TURNED INTO AN ARMY OF HORROR! AN **UNBELIEVABLE FORM OF DEATH** WAS VISITED UPON THE EARTH... BLACK TERROR KNOWN AS THE...

DEAD DUMMIES



BLAST IT, STEVENS, WE HIRED YOU HERE AT CRANE ENTERPRISES BECAUSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST DUMMY DESIGNER IN THE COUNTRY! BUT YOU'RE A FLOP! NOT ONE OF THE MANNEQUINS LOOK LIFELIKE ENOUGH! THEY DON'T SELL!

I-I'LL TRY HARDER, MR. CRANE!



SO! THE OLD WALRUS DOESN'T THINK I CAN MAKE DUMMIES THAT ARE LIFELIKE ENOUGH, EH? I'LL SHOW HIM... I DON'T CARE WHAT **BLACK THING** I HAVE TO DO... I'LL SHOW HIM!



STEVENS HAD LONG BEEN WORKING IN HIS SECRET LABORATORY... AND NOW FINALLY HE THOUGHT HE HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF LIFE AND DEATH...

AHHH! IF THIS WORKS... HEE! HEE! I'LL SURPRISE MR. CRANE WITH A KIND OF MANNEQUIN HE'S NEVER SEEN! HEE! HEE! LIFE-LIKE. EH? WE'LL SOON SEE!



THERE'S NO USE IN STRUGGLING MY LITTLE FRIEND! IF THIS WORKS, YOU'LL NEVER MOVE AGAIN... BUT YOU'LL STILL BE ALIVE! ALIVE AND LIFE-LIKE... BUT UNABLE TO MOVE! HEE! HEE! HEEHARRHAHA!



EEEEYAH! IT WORKED! SO YOU WERE GOING TO SPRING AT ME WHEN I LET YOU GO, EH? BUT YOU FROZE! FOREVER FROZEN INTO LIVING DEATH... HEEHHAHAHA!



THE NEXT MORNING, STEVENS HURRIED TO WORK, HIS MAD BRAIN INTENT ON CAPTURING A **HUMAN VICTIM** FOR HIS **UNHOLY EXPERIMENTS**...

HA! THERE IS ONE OF THE CUSTOMERS WHO COMPLAINED THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE LAST SHIPMENT OF MANNEQUINS I DESIGNED! HEE! HEE! IF I CAN GET HER ALONE IN THE STORE ROOM... SHE WILL BE MY FIRST **HUMAN LIVING CORPSE!**



EXCUSE ME, MA'AM... I NOTICED YOU WAITING FOR YOUR ORDER... WOULD YOU PLEASE STEP INTO THE STORE-ROOM WITH ME... THERE SEEMS TO BE A MIXUP CONCERNING THE MANNEQUINS YOU BOUGHT!



I DON'T SEE ANY OF THE DUMMIES I ORDERED! THERE'S SOME MISTAKE! WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?



THIS IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE... YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE FIRST OF MY MASTER-PIECES! HAHHA! HEE! HAH!



SO-O-O YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE LAST BATCH OF DUMMIES I DESIGNED, EH? JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU GRACE SOME STORE WINDOW... THE WORLD WILL HAIL ME AS A GENIUS! BUT BEFORE I CAN SELL YOU, I MUST MAKE MORE ZOMBIES! HEE! HEE!

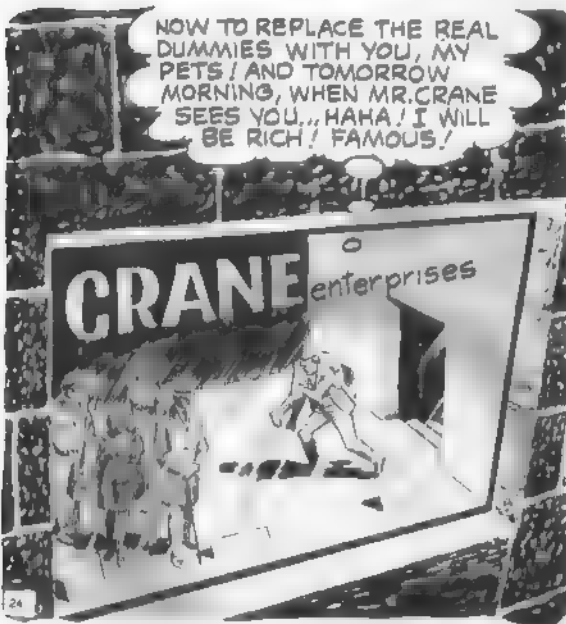


FOR A WEEK STEVENS WENT ON A RAMPAGE OF DEATH... UNTIL FINALLY HE HAD MADE A ROOMFUL OF CREATURES OF TERROR!



FINALLY! NOW, MY BEAUTIES, TO SHOW YOU TO MR. CRANE! AH, HOW YOUR EYES GLEAM HATRED FOR ME! BUT YOU CAN DO NOTHING... YOU ARE DOOMED TO A DEATHLESS ETERNITY OF FROZEN LIFE!

NOW TO REPLACE THE REAL DUMMIES WITH YOU, MY PETS! AND TOMORROW MORNING, WHEN MR. CRANE SEES YOU... HAH! I WILL BE RICH! FAMOUS!



... AND I WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE THESE NEW MANNEQUINS I DESIGNED IN A SCENE FROM ONE OF THE RECENT BEST-SELLER MURDER MYSTERIES! THE WINDOW WITH THESE DUMMIES WILL ATTRACT DOZENS OF CUSTOMERS!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, MY BOY! I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVER MADE SUCH LIFELIKE MANNEQUINS!



NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE! ...NOW TO ADD A FEW MORE FINISHING TOUCHES AND I CAN DISPLAY MY MASTERPIECES TO THE WORLD!



NOW YOUR EYES **GLARE MURDER** MY PETS! THOSE FOOLS OUT THERE THINK THIS IS JUST MAKE-BELIEVE... NOW! EVERYTHING IS PERFECT! NOW TO RIP OFF THE SIGN AND LET THEM SEE YOU!



THERE! FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE MANNEQUINS IN THE WORLD!

OOH! THEY LOOK LIKE REAL PEOPLE!

EVEN THEIR EYES SEEM REAL!



WELL, NOW TO GET OUT OF THE WINDOW... WHA--THOUGHT I HAD JUST ARRANGED THESE GLOVES... IT'S FALLING OFF... IT'S MOVING! NO! NO!



HELP! HELP! NO! THE PEOPLE THINK IT'S PART OF THE ACT! HELP! I'M **STRANGLING**... I'M STRANGLING... RRUGHUUH!

OH, LOOK! ONE OF THE DUMMIES IS WIRED SO IT CAN MOVE ITS ARM... AND THE MAN IS **PRETENDING TO STRANGLE!**

WHAT A MASTERPIECE OF SHOWMANSHIP!



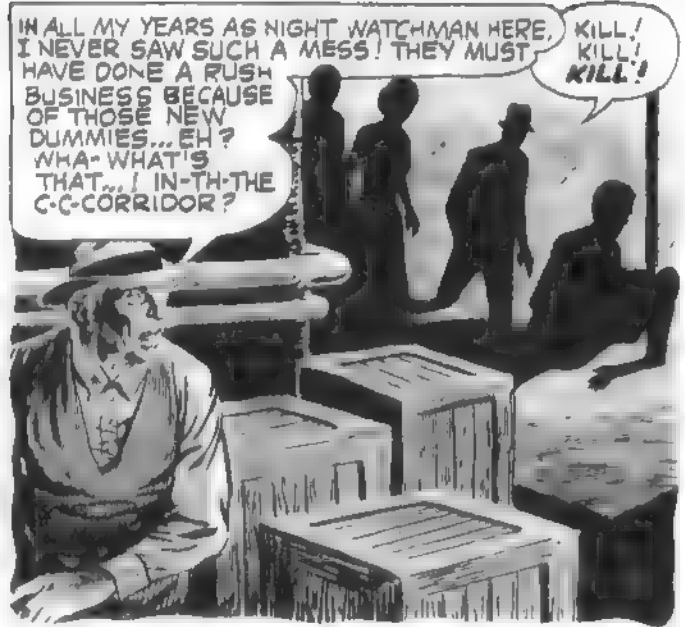
ALL THROUGH THE DAY STEVENS LAY DEAD...AND ONLOOKERS WHO CAME LATER THOUGHT HE WAS JUST ANOTHER DUMMY IN THE WINDOW! THOSE WHO HAD SEEN THE ACT DID NOT REALIZE THE SCENE OF VENGEANCE THEY HAD WITNESSED! AND NIGHT SETTLED BLACKLY...





WE...KILL...
DESTROY...
BODY...

MUST
KILL...



IN ALL MY YEARS AS NIGHT WATCHMAN HERE,
I NEVER SAW SUCH A MESS! THEY MUST
HAVE DONE A RUSH
BUSINESS BECAUSE
OF THOSE NEW
DUMMIES... EH?
WHA- WHAT'S
THAT... I IN-TH-THE
C-C-CORRIDOR?

KILL!
KILL!
KILL!



INTO--THE... ELEVATOR...
SHAFT... NO... ONE... WILL...
FIND... HIM... KILL... MUST...
KILL... MORE... MORE...

WH-WHAT UNHOLY
DEVIL'S TRICK IS
TH-THIS! ... THOSE
MANNEQUINS A-ARE
ALIVE! AND THAT'S
POOR STEVEN'S BODY
THEY'RE THROWING INTO
THE B-BLACK PIT!!!



KILL... KILL...
KILL...

I-I MUST BE GOING CRAZY!
TH-THEY'RE M-MURDEROUS!
P-PLEASE DON'T LET
THEM F-FIND M-ME

AFTER THEIR MIDNIGHT DEED, THE MANNEQUINS
RESUMED THEIR PLACES AS IF THEY HAD NEVER
MOVED. AND IN THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE
STORE THEY LEFT A SHAKEN LITTLE MAN WHO
SHUDDERED WITH UNSPEAKABLE DREAD...



BUT WHEN THE WATCHMAN TRIED TO TELL HIS STORY THE NEXT DAY...

P. PLEASE, MR. CRANE! PLEASE! Y-YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! THEY MOVED!

SURE, SURE WILLIE AND STEVENS IS IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT. SURE, I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT! NOW, I THINK YOU NEED A GOOD LONG VACATION!



WHEW! I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER GET HERE! POOR WILLIE GOT SO OLD HE CRACKED UP... SAY, I WONDER WHERE STEVENS REALLY IS? HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET, TODAY!

LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M NOT CRAZY! YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I SAW IT!



WELL, JOHNNY, WE'LL REALLY BE KEEPING YOU BOYS IN THE SHIPPING ROOM BUSY WITH ALL THESE ORDERS! I'VE NEVER SOLD SO MANY DUMMIES IN MY LIFE!

YOU SAID IT, MR. CRANE! WE'RE SENDING OUT ORDERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY... MR STEVENS SURE HT THE JACKPOT WHEN HE DESIGNED THESE!



BUT, YOU KNOW, MR. CRANE... I CAN'T REALLY BLAME POOR WILLIE! I JUST HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MANNEQUINS THAT GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

YES... THEY ARE QUEER SOME-HOW! AND AT NIGHT, ALONE WITH THEM... BRR! I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO WILLIE! WATCHING YOU SHIP THESE OUT 'S LIKE WATCHING YOU NAIL DOWN COFFINS FOR REAL CORPSES!



...BUT STRANGE AS THEY ARE, WE'RE SELLING ALL WE HAVE! WHAT A DEMAND THERE IS FOR THEM... EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE SOME! BUSINESS HAS NEVER BEEN SO GOOD!



BUT MR. CRANE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS SHIPPING MURDER... TO EVERY VILLAGE... EVERY STORE... WHERE WILL THEY STRIKE NEXT...? WHERE...? WHEN...?



THE END

THE RESTLESS
TORMENTED DEAD
DO NOT LIE STILL
BUT RAVE AND
SCREAM IN
DEATH'S GARDEN.
AND THERE'S
A SECRET
LOCKED IN THE
MOULDY
COFFINS THAT
CAUSES DEAD
MEN TO
WALK AGAIN
IN...

THE ZOMBIES VAULT



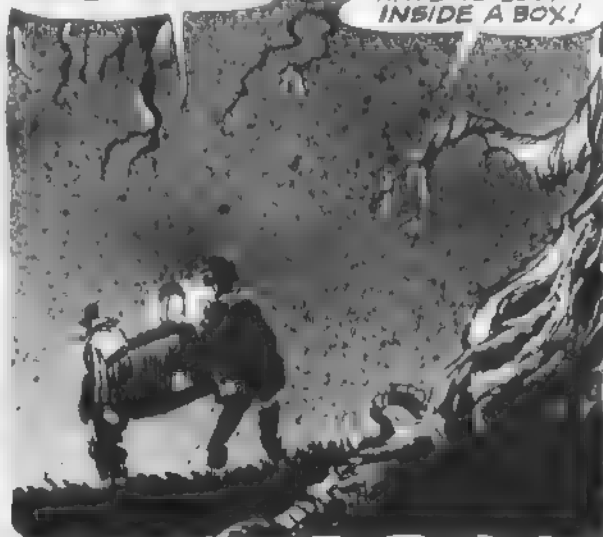
DUE TO A
CERTAIN
TOWN'S
COMMERCIAL
GROWTH, IT
BECAME
NECESSARY
TO MOVE A
CEMETERY
TO THE
OUTSKIRTS OF
THE TOWN!
THIS UN-
EARTHING OF
THE DEAD WAS
INTRUSTED TO
TWO AGED
GRAVE DIGGERS
WHO WERE
NEAR CORPSES
THEMSELVES
WHO MOVED
FROM STONE
TO STONE
AFTER
SUNSET...

IT'S BEST WE DIG
AFTER DARK,
FRIEND AMOS!
SEEN' THE
DEAD WOULD
DISTURB MOST
OF THE LIVIN'!

AY, JONATHAN!
PRYING INTO THE
PRIVACY OF THE
HALLOWED DEAD
IS NOT VERY
PRETTY...

TIS AN EASY TASK THOUGH,
AMOS! NO TROUBLE FINDING
THESE PEOPLE AT
HOME! HEH-HEH!

SOMETIMES THE
COFFINS SINK A
FOOT OR TWO! I'D
HATE TO LOOK
INSIDE A BOX!



AFTER EACH VISIT MORE EMPTY GRAVES...

SLOW BUT SURE... THAT'S THE WAY TO BE WHEN YE DG UP A CEMETERY!

LOOK! THERE'S OLD DOC MATLOCK'S VAULT... BUSIEST MAN I EVER KNOWN! BET HE'S SITTING THERE RIGHT NOW DOING SOME OF HIS EXPERIMENTS! HEH/HEH!

THE DOOR OF THE FETTERED TOMB, UNLIT FOR FORTY YEARS, IS FORCED OPEN, AND THE AIR, WITH A GUSH LIKE THE SIGH OF A LOST DEMON RUSHES IN...

J-JONATHAN!! L-LOOK! THE COFFIN IT... IT'S EMPTY!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DEVIL HIMSELF WHO CLAIMED THE FLESHLESS REMAINS...



THE DAMP BREEZE ECHOED AGAINST THE WALLS OF THE MAUSOLEUM AS THERE WAS HEARD THE RUSTLE OF...

PAPERS! A MESSAGE! THE WIND'S BLOWING THEM!

I'M GETTING A STRANGE CHILL IN MY BONES... AND MY FLESH FEELS AS IF SPIDERS WERE CRAWLING ALL OVER IT!!

EEYAH!! S...T'S MATLOCK! H-HE-- HE WAS TRYING TO GET OUT!!

OH, GOD! HE MUST HAVE BEEN... I... I CAN'T THINK OF IT!



WHAT TALE OF HORROR HAD THE MAN WHO SOUGHT TO ESCAPE HIS TOMB TO TELL? THE HUNTERS OF CORPSES BENT OVER THE ANCIENT, YELLOWED PAGES... SLOWLY THEIR MINDS SPANNED FOUR DECADES...

Buried alive in this vault, with no hope of escape, my only ambition is long enough to recount the bulk of my last year of life and to give my glorious and life-giving discovery...

IT WORKS! WE HAVE SUCCESS!! NOW SURGERY CAN BE PERFORMED WITHOUT FEAR OF SHOCK! WE HAVE GIVEN THE WORLD ITS FIRST SUCCESSFUL ANESTHETIC!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE? IT WAS MY DISCOVERY! YOU WERE MERELY MY ASS STANT! I SHALL TAKE THE CREDIT!



NO! I SHALL SHARE THE HONORS! I HAVE SPENT TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE EXPERIMENTING AND DOING RESEARCH TO PROVE AND BRING TO LIFE AN IDEA YOU HAD! HOWEVER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO TEST THIS ON A HUMAN BEING!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

AND YOU SHALL BE THE GUINEA PIG! THEN HE WILL SEE WHO GETS THE ACCLAIM!

NOT WILLING TO EXPOSE AN OUTSIDER TO THE NEWLY DISCOVERED ANESTHETIC, THE DOCTORS CUT CARDS TO SEE WHICH OF THEM WILL BE THE FIRST HUMAN TO SUCCEED TO THE DEATHLIKE POWERS OF THE MYSTERIOUS VAPORS...

I HAVE THE KING! CAN YOU TOP IT?

I'M AFRAID NOT! I WISH IT HAD BEEN ME!

HA! HA! THE CARDS WERE STACKED TO BE AGAINST YOU FROM THE BEGINNING, DR. RUSSELL!



IT WORKS ON HUMANS! PULSE AND RESPIRATION NORMAL! HE'S BEGINNING TO COME OUT OF IT... I--I'D BETTER GIVE HIM A LARGER AMOUNT!

WHAT THOUGHTS CRAWLED THROUGH THE EVIL MIND OF DR. MATLOCK?? THEY WERE MORE GHASTLY... MORE HORRID THAN EVEN THE WET, RED LIPS OF A VAMPIRE!

...AND SO, GENTLEMEN, I PRONOUNCE MY BELOVED COLLEAGUE, DR. RUSSELL DEAD OF A RARE, UNKNOWN DISEASE... WHICH HE CONTRACTED WHILE WORKING WITH THESE ANIMALS. THE WORLD HAS LOST A GREAT SCIENTIST!



IMPATIENT TILL THE EARTH SHOULD SEAL THOSE LIPS FOREVER, MATLOCK'S BREAST BEAT LIKE THE MUFFLED OARS OF THE FERRY TO THE INFERNAL REGIONS...

SOB... SOB... SOB...

I HOPE I GAVE HIM ENOUGH OF THE STUFF. I WISH TO SATAN THEY'D HURRY! WHAT'S THAT? DID THE COFFIN MOVE? NO, IT'S JUST MY NERVES!



LATER, IN HIS STUDY...

WHY COULDN'T HE SEE IT MY WAY? CAN HE POSSIBLY GET OUT? NO! SO WHY WORRY? MY NAME ALONE SHALL BE THE GREATEST IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION! EH? WHAT WAS THAT?



AAAAAA!! NO. NO!
IT CAN'T BE. DON'T
COME NEAR ME



AT THE SIGHT
OF THE
**ROTTED,
FESTERED
FACE**
MATLOCK'S
MIND FELL
INTO THE
PIT OF
UNCONSCIOUS-
NESS, WHERE
HE WAS
VISITED
BY THE
WRITHING
FIENDS
OF HELL
WHO
CRIED...

DR. MATLOCK! DR. MATLOCK!
WHAT'S HAPPENED? OH
YOU POOR MAN, THE
FUNERAL WAS TOO
MUCH FOR YOU!

OH MRS. DOLAN, I
MUST HAVE FALLEN
ASLEEP AT MY DESK!
I HAD A TERRIBLE
NIGHTMARE!



IT'S MY NERVES!
I SHOULD GET
SOME SLEEP.
NO! I CAN'T
SLEEP... I
MIGHT TALK!

A FEAR OF SLEEP MINGLED WITH THE
GHASTLY APPARITION LEFT THE DOCTOR
HALF CRAZY WITH DOUBT...

MAYBE IT WAS ?? BUT.. BUT..
I HELPED BURY HIM
WAIT... I HAVE TO FIND OUT
I'LL DIG HIM UP!



DRAWN BY A SUB-CONSCIOUS FORCE, DR. MATLOCK
STARTED TO DIG FEVERISHLY...

HE'S GONE! NOT EVEN A TRACE OF
THE COFFIN! WHAT SHALL I DO?
WHERE CAN I HIDE? I MUST
GET OUT OF HERE!



THE EXERTION OF HIS DIGGING AND THE LACK OF
SLEEP CAUSED MATLOCK TO DOZE FOR A FEW
MOMENTS...

OH, I MUST'VE DROPPED
OFF... EEEYAAH! LEAVE
ME IN PEACE! WHAT DO
YOU WANT OF ME?



FATIGUED EXHAUSTED, FEARFUL, MATLOCK'S BODY
AND FEATURES BEGIN TO TWIST LIKE THE
GNARLED FINGERS OF A LEPROUS WITCH!

PERHAPS I'LL FEEL
BETTER AFTER I
SHAVE! ---MAYBE
THE NIGHTMARES
WILL... AAAAAHH!!
HELP! HELP!!



NOW THE GHASTLY VISAGE OF RUSSELL HAUNTS HIM AT EVERY TURN... HE FEARS EVERY FOOTSTEP BEHIND HIM, AND HE CRINGES BEFORE EVERY HUMAN FORM AS A SLIMY TOAD BEFORE THE DRIPPING FANGS OF A VIPER...



LACK OF FOOD AND REST TOOK ITS TOLL AND LEFT HIM HAGGARD AND RESTLESS...



SLEEP...SLEEP! I MUST GET SOME SLEEP...THE ANESTHETIC... YES! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE!

DESPERATE, HE ALLOWS THE DROPS OF FORGETFULNESS TO ENVELOPE HIS WEARY BRAIN... SLOWLY, SLOWLY, THE DARKNESS, LIKE DEATH CLOSES IN..



AH! AT LAST, RUSSELL... YOU CAN'T HURT ME... NOW!!

WORRIED ABOUT THE DOCTOR, THE TOWN DIGNITARIES SEEK HIM OUT AND FIND...

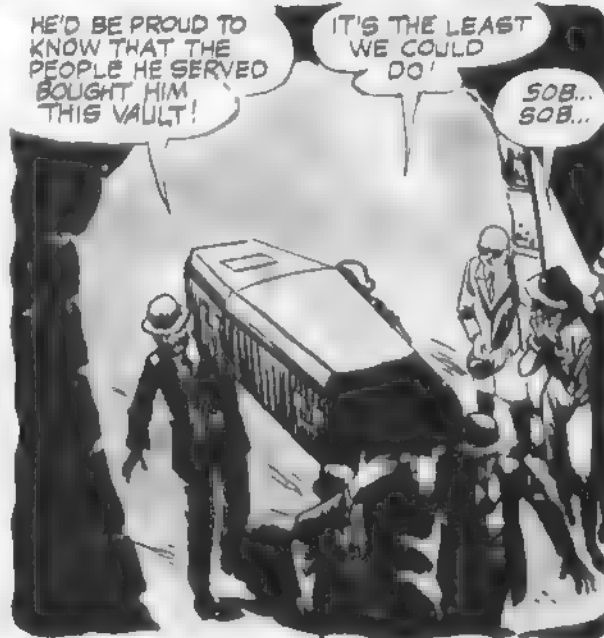


THE SYMPTOMS ARE THE SAME THAT KILLED DR. RUSSELL! PROBABLY GOT IT FROM THE SAME ANIMAL!

WE'D BETTER BURY HIM SO THIS SICKNESS WON'T SPREAD!

HE'D BETTER TRYING TO MAKE A BETTER PLACE FOR US!

SLOWLY, THE TOWNSMEN CARRY THE SLEEPING DR. MATLOCK TO HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE... AN ODOROUS, SOMBRE TOMB...



HE'D BE PROUD TO KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE HE SERVED BOUGHT HIM THIS VAULT!

IT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO!

SOB... SOB...

AFTER THE SHORT RITUAL THE DOORS WERE SEALED FOREVER! THEN SOMETHING STILL WARM AND HUMAN STIRRED WITHIN THE COLD CASKET...





WHERE... WHERE AM I? THIS ROOM... IT LOOKS VAGUELY FAMILIAR... A COFFIN! OH, NO, THE COULDN'T! I--I'M STILL DREAMING!



LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE SITUATION TOOK ON MEANING! GRADUALLY IT HIT HIM WITH THE IMPACT OF A POISONOUS FLUID RUNNING THRU HIS VEINS... AND WHEN THE PUTRID VENOM HIT HIS BRAIN..



MADLY, SAVAGELY, HE THROWS HIS WEIGHT UPON THE SOLID DOOR, UNTIL HIS BONES ARE ALL BUT CRUSHED...



HE WILL TO LIVE PERSIST BUT THERE IS NO LONGER THE STRENGTH, WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.



WHAT SUSTENANCE HE COULD FIND CAME FROM THE OOZING WALLS OF DEATH ITSELF!



WATER! A LITTLE WATER!

SURROUNDED BY DEATH, THERE IS A FINAL RESIGNATION, THE CREEPING DOOM LIKE A COLONY OF CANNIBAL ANTS, COMES TO REMOVE THE OUTER LAYER OF FLESH... LEAVING ONLY BONES INSENSITIVE TO PAIN AND SHOCK...

IT'S NO USE... CAN'T GET OUT... MUST GET THINGS IN ORDER...



LET ME SEE... FULL CONFESSION... FORMULA FOR ANESTHETIC... NO ONE WILL EVER FIND IT... BUT I HAVE TO LEAVE IT BEHIND ME, ANYWAY...



WELL, THAT'S FINISHED... ONLY ONE MORE THING LEFT TO DO--DIE!



THEN THE HEART WHICH HAD BEEN FILLED WITH HATE AND AMBITION AND THEN GRIPPED WITH FEAR, FLUTTERED WEAKLY... THEN STOPPED...

COUGH... COUGH... AAAHH!



...AND DEATH BECAME A SAVAGE WHO CONSUMED ITS VICTIMS...



...AND TEARS OFF
THE FLESH...



...AND PICKS THE
BONES CLEAN...



THE AMBER
RAYS OF THE
LANTERN
REACHED
OUT LIKE
TENTACLES,
DRAWING
TOGETHER
THE BRITTLE
SCRAPS OF
PAPER AND
THE
CRUMBLING
HEAP OF
BONES, WHICH
ONCE ENACTED
WHAT THE
PAPERS
DESCRIBE! THE
GRAVE-DIGGERS
RETURNED
FROM THEIR
INCREDIBLE
VENTURE
INTO
THE
PAST...

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
WHY, I USED TO SIT
ON THAT.. THAT KNEE
WHEN THERE WAS
FLESH UPON IT...

MAYBE WE'D BETTER
GET BACK TO OUR
WORK AND LET THIS...
THIS NIGHTMARE
PASS!



HURRY UP, CAN'T
YOU? I WANT TO
GET OUT OF
THIS DRIPPING
CELL...

WAIT! GET THOSE
PAPERS... THEN
WE'LL FIND DOC
RUSSELL'S GRAVE



ON STONE AFTER STONE, THE AMBER LANTERN LICKED
AWAY THE MOIST, BLACK DARKNESS...

IT MUST BE AROUND
HERE SOMEWHERE!

LOOK ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THE OAK TREE!



AH, WE SHOULD HAVE
LOOKED NEAR THE
HAUNTED OAK
FIRST, FOR...

HERE IT IS!! BUT HOW
DO WE KNOW HE'S
IN IT???



OOPS! HERE SHE BE!
NOW IF...IF WE CAN
PRY THIS RUSTY LID
OPEN WE'LL SEE
IF DOC RUSSELL IS..

YOU OPEN IT!--I
DON'T WANT TO
LOOK IN...

IS HE THERE? HE--
HE DIDN'T GET...??

AY HE'S HERE ALL
RIGHT! HE'S NEVER
BEEN OUT OF
HERE!



THE POOR, OLD FOOL! HE DUG ON THE
WRONG SIDE OF THE STONE! NO
WONDER HE FOUND NO ONE AT HOME!

...AND WHEN HE DIDN'T
FIND THE COFFIN, HIS
CONSCIENCE MADE
HIM THINK HE WAS
SEEING THE
AVENGING GHOST!

BUT MAYBE RUSSELL'S
SPIRIT REALLY DID
GET OUT...



NOW REST, YOU POOR TORMENTED SOUL!
WHATEVER 'LL YOU DID, YOUR DEBT
SHOULD BE PAID
BY NOW...

I'LL SAY "AMEN"
TO THAT!

AND SO THE MAN WHO WOULD RID THE WORLD OF PAIN AND
SHOCK IS CARRIED OFF, A SACK OF **CRUMBLING BONES!**
AND THE GLORIOUS DISCOVERY OF INDUCED SLEEPER ALLOW-
ED HIM TO SLEEP FOREVER...

LET THE DEAD REST WITH THEIR
DEEDS OF EVIL. WE MUST
CARRY THIS STORY TO OUR
GRAVES WITH US!

AY... THERE'S
ENOUGH EVIL IN
THE WORLD WTHOUT
LETTING THIS STORY
AND THE FORMULA
LOOSE ON IT!



THE
END

A CORPSE FOR THE COFFIN



I AM A COFFIN... AN EMPTY, BARREN COFFIN! OH, IT ISN'T THAT I'M NOT A GOOD COFFIN... I AM! MY BODY IS MADE OF THE FINEST MAHOGONY, AND MY HINGES ARE STRONG, SHINY BRASS! I'M EMPTY BECAUSE NO BODY WANTS ME... YET! I SIT HOPEFULLY EVERY DAY, WAITING FOR DEATH!!



MY HOME IS IN THE BACK OF LESTER PETER'S MORTUARY! HERE, ALONG WITH OTHER COFFINS I WAIT EAGERLY FOR THE DAY FOR A BEREAVED RELATIVE TO SELECT ME AS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE BELOVED CORPSE...

I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT, MRS HARVEY, BUT YOU **MUST** SELECT A COFFIN FOR YOUR BELOVED HUSBAND! THIS IS A FINE ONE! SOLID MAHOGONY... BRASS HARDWARE AND...

NO! SOB! HENRY LIKED PINE! I WANT A! SOB! PINE COFFIN!



FOR AN INSTANT I THOUGHT MY TIME HAD COME... BUT NO! THE WOMAN WANTED PINE! SOMETIMES I DESPAIR OF EVER BEING CHOSEN...

I'LL NEVER GET RID OF THIS DARN THING! I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO STOCK SUCH AN EXPENSIVE COFFIN! NOBODY IN THIS TWO-BIT TOWN CAN AFFORD IT!



THE KINDLY FACE LESTER PETERS PRESENTS TO HIS PATRONS IS A FARCE. NOT ONLY IS LESTER CALCULATING, AND UNSCRUPULOUS... BUT HE IS ALSO A MURDERER...

HURRY UP, LES! I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN COMING IN HERE!

THERE'S NOTHIN' STRANGE ABOUT A DOCTOR COMING TO SEE A MORTICIAN! DON'T GET NERVOUS, AMOS!

BUT DR. AMOS CRADDOCK HAS GOOD REASON TO BE NERVOUS... HE, TOO, IS A MURDERER! HE AND LESTER ARE PARTNERS IN A LITTLE GAME OF DEATH!!!

I SEE THAT HARVEY WENT OFF JUST LIKE WE PLANNED! I KNEW HIS HEART COULDN'T STAND THE SHOCK OF AN OPERATION! HOW MUCH WILL WE MAKE ON THE FUNERAL?

PRACTICALLY NOTHING! OLD LADY HARVEY BAWLED HER EYES OUT, BUT DIDN'T SPEND! THE WHOLE DEAL AIN'T GONNA BE WORTH MORE'N SEVENTY FIVE BUCKS APIECE!

IT'S A SWEET LITTLE SET-UP, ISN'T IT? THE LOCAL DOCTOR AND THE LOCAL MORTICIAN WORKING HAND-IN-GLOVE TO KILL OFF PEOPLE AND SPLIT THE PROFIT ON THE FUNERAL...

YOU'VE GOT TO DO BETTER! THIS BUSINESS IS TOO RISKY TO WORK FOR PEANUTS!

AMOS! IT AIN'T MY FAULT NOBODY HAS MONEY IN THIS TOWN!

YER WRONG THERE, LES... THERE IS ONE FAMILY THAT HAS MONEY... THE KNOLLS... AND OLD MAN KNOLL IS SICK RIGHT NOW!

YUH MEAN...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN! HE'LL BE DEAD WITHIN A WEEK!

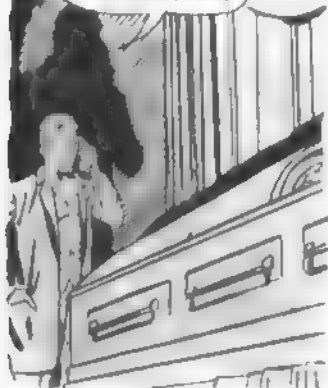
HOT DOG! I GOT JUST THE COFFIN FOR HIM! THIS FUNERAL IS WORTH AT LEAST \$1,000!

I KNOW HE MEANS ME! I'M THE COFFIN HE'S TALKING ABOUT! AT LAST I'M TO HAVE A CORPSE OF MY VERY OWN...

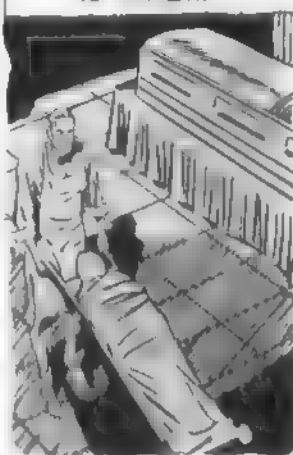
HA! I CAN SOAK THE KNOLLS OVER \$700 FOR THIS WHITE ELEPHANT ALONE!

IT IS FIVE DAYS LATER NOW AND MY INSIDES QUIVER WITH JOY AS I HEAR LESTER ON THE PHONE...

OF COURSE, MRG. KNOLL... I'LL BE RIGHT OVER... YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY.



HE DONS HIS BLACK SUIT AND DRIVES OFF! I WAIT BREATHLESSLY... HE COMES BACK... IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MINUTES UNTIL MINE IS HERE...



HE'S INSIDE NOW, AND ON THE EMBALMING TABLE! WHEN LESTER GETS FINISHED WITH HIM I'LL TAKE HIM TO MY HUNGRY BOSOM, CARESS HIM LOVINGLY...

WHAT A PERFECT SET-UP! WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH OLD MAN KNOLL, EVEN AN AUTOPSY WOULDN'T SHOW DOC'S POISON!



IT'S OVER AND LESTER HAS LAID THE BODY OF ALFRED HAMILTON KNOLL INSIDE OF ME! HIS OLD BONES REBT AGAINST MY QUILTED PADDING AND I FEEL LIKE A MOTHER WHO'S HOLDING HER CHILD FOR THE FIRST TIME...



I DON'T CARE THAT HE'S BEEN MURDERED, KILLED IN COLD BLOOD... HE'S MINE AND I LOVE HIM!

DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS I LIVE IN AN ECSTASY OF DELIGHT AS TEARFUL MOURNERS PASS BEFORE ME...

HE'S SOB: WAS A GOOD MAN!

THE WHOLE TOWN WILL MISS HIM!



IT IS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FUNERAL NOW! LESTER IS PREPARING TO PUT ME IN THE HEARSE WHEN AMOS ENTERS THE PARLOR!

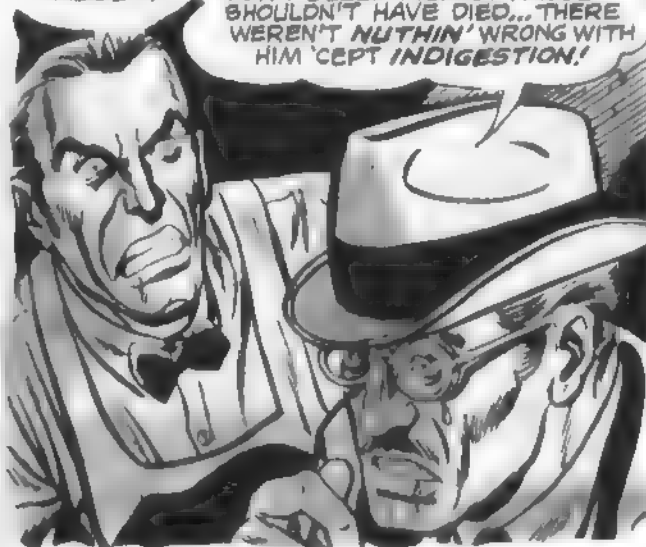
FOR PETE'S SAKE, STOP SKULKING AROUND, AMOS! THERE AIN'T NOBODY HERE... EXCEPT OLD MAN KNOLL! HAA-HA-HA!

I'M IN NO MOOD FOR HUMOR! I QUIT... THIS IS THE LAST JOB!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I JUST CAN'T KEEP THIS UP! IT'S MAKING ME TOO NERVOUS! I DON'T SLEEP NIGHTS! KNOLL SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED... THERE WEREN'T NUTHIN' WRONG WITH HIM 'CEPT INDIGESTION!



AS AMOS SPEAKS, I FEEL A STIRRING WITHIN MY BOSOM... AN ANGRY, RESTLESS FLUTTERING...

YER YELLOW, AMOS... JUST YELLOW!

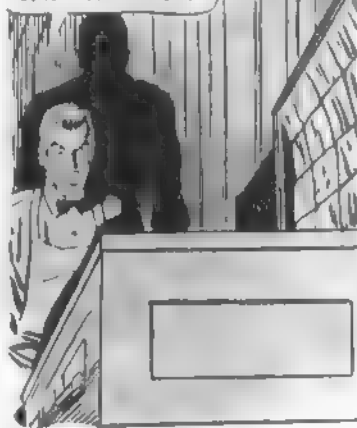
MAYBE I AM... BUT I'M SICK OF BEING A MURDERER! AFTER I COLLECT MY SHARE OF THE KOLL MONEY, WE'RE THROUGH!

AMOS LEAVES... AND INSIDE THE EMBALMING ROOM, TWO MEN MUTTER ANGRILY TO THEMSELVES... ONE OF THE MEN IS ALIVE...

DIRTY COWARD! WITHOUT HIM I'M SUNK! AT LEAST IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO SPLIT ON THE KNOLL JOB IT WOULDN'T BE TOO BAD... SAY... MAYBE...

BUT THE OTHER MAN IS DEAD...

THEY THINK I'M DEAD! BUT, I'M NOT! I'M ALIVE! ...YET I CAN'T MOVE...



I TRY TO COMFORT MY CORPSE... BUT HE WON'T LISTEN... IT IS THE NEXT DAY NOW... THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL...

ASHES TO ASHES... DUST UNTO DUST...



THE MOURNERS LEAVE, AND I SETTLE COMFORTABLY INTO MY NEW EARTH HOME... BUT ALFRED KNOLL WHISPERS HIS HATRED AND I WORRY...

MURDERERS... MURDERERS... THEY BURIED ME... ALIVE!



IT IS NIGHT... AND THE RESTLESSNESS WITHIN THE DEAD MAN HAS GROWN! I AM AFRAID I WILL LOSE MY PRECIOUS CHARGE! AS I HEAR FOOTSTEPS OVER MY HEAD, I FEEL RELIEVED... PERHAPS THE FEAR OF DISCOVERY WILL KEEP THE BODY WITHIN ME AT PEACE...

AMOS'LL BE HERE IN TEN MINUTES... BETTER GET THIS LITTLE OL' AXE OUTTA THE WAY!



I STIFFEN WITH SHOCK AS I RECOGNIZE LESTER'S VOICE...

HA! AND WHAT BETTER PLACE TO HIDE IT THAN BEHIND OLD MAN KNOLL'S GRAVE! DOC KILLED HIM... NOW HE CAN HELP ME KILL DOC!



AT LESTER'S WORDS MY BELOVED CORPSE TURNS AND PUSHES, SCRATCHING AT MY QUILTED SIDES...



SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING SEEMS TERRIFYING TO ME...AND WORSE YET...I CAN HEAR A NEW VOICE... AMOS CRADDOCK...



LESTER? IS THAT YOU, LESTER?

YEAH, DOC... YUH CAN STOP WHISPERIN'! IT'S ME ALL RIGHT!

YUH GOT THE MONEY WITH YUH? I DON'T LIKE BEIN' IN THIS CEMETARY! GIVES ME TH' CREEPS!

IT OUGHTTA GIVE YUH TH' CREEPS, DOC... YOU SENT ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE! HA-HA!



I AIN'T IN NO MOOD FOR YER JOKES, LESTER! GIMME MY SHARE OF THE KNOLL FUNERAL AND LEMME GET OUTTA HERE!

OH, YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT... YOUR SHARE OF THE MONEY! GEE, AMOS, I'M SORRY, BUT I AIN'T GOT IT WITH ME!



AIN'T GOT IT WITH YUH? SEE HERE, LESTER, WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO PULL? I TOLD YOU, I AIN'T IN NO MOOD FOR JOKES!

THIS AIN'T NO JOKE, DOC! NO... NOT A JOKE AT ALL!



YER ACTIN' MIGHTY PECULIAR, LESTER! AND I DON'T LIKE-- L-LESTER! WH--WHAT ON EARTH...

YEAH, DOC, IT'S AN AXE, AIN'T IT? YOU STUPID OLD FOOL! WHY SHOULD I SPLIT THE KNOLL MONEY WITH YOU? YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME NOW!



IN FACT, IF YOU WUZ ALIVE, YOU MIGHT DO ME SOME HARM! YOU TURNED CHICKEN, AMOS... AND I'M GONNA KILL YUH!

N-NO, LESTER, NO! KEEP THE MONEY... B-BUT LEAVE ME ALONE!



FOR AN INSTANT THERE'S SILENCE AND I CAN HEAR ONLY THE SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS... BUT THEN THERE'S A HORRIBLE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM...



...AND THEN ONCE AGAIN THERE'S SILENCE...

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET THE BODY BURIED BEFORE SOMEBODY SEES ME...



BUT BY NOW, I DON'T CARE... I'VE LOST MY CHARGE... HE'S BROKEN FREE OF ME...



I'M ALONE AGAIN... DESERTED! I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING ABOVE ME AT THIS VERY INSTANT...



WH... HEY, MY THROAT... YER CHOCKIN' ME! STOP! STOP! HELP! HELP!



KNOLL! OLD MAN KNOLL! OH, MY GOD... NO!

PLEASE! DON'T TAKE ME THERE... NO... NO...



And now I can smile! I'm not alone... my emptiness is once again filled... and this time it is even better! I've got two corpses instead of one!



DYING! CAN'T BREATHE... GASP! HELP! NEED AIR... AIR...

THE END

I AM FIFTY... I AM AN OLD MAN... I'M SENILE, TOTTERING, FALSIED! YOU ASK HOW THAT IS LIKELY AT MY AGE? THEN LISTEN TO THE STORY OF...

Satan's DEMON



IT HAD BEEN A MILD, PLEASANT WINTER UNTIL THE NIGHT OF THE 30TH OF DECEMBER! THEN, ALL THE HOARDED FURY OF NATURE WAS UNLEASHED AT ONCE... SHAKING THE QUIET, PEACEFUL VILLAGE OF INTERVALE TO ITS ROOTS! AND THE WILDEST TORMENT SEEMED TO BE LEVELLED UPON THE ANCIENT CEMETERY THAT HAD RESTED FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS ON THE HILL SLOPE NOT FAR FROM OUR FAMILY HOUSE...

THERE WERE BLACK SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT, AND STRANGE SHAPES SEEMED TO FORM THAT WERE BLACKER THAN THE DARKNESS...

IT IS AN OLD NEW ENGLAND SUPERSTITION THAT ON SUCH A NIGHT, THE DEVIL'S WORK IS BEST PERFORMED...



BUT THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND SUPERSTITION AND BELIEF IN SPECTRAL MAGIC HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN EXPLAINED AWAY BY GREAT MEN IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY!



THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR WAS JUST ABOUT AUDIBLE ABOVE THE STORM! GENEVIEVE WHO WAS JUST ABOUT TWENTY WITH SHARPER HEARING THAN MINE, INSISTED SOMEONE WAS AT THE DOOR...



MY DEAR MAN! COME IN!

BUT...BUT WHAT! I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT THOSE CLOTHES!

RIDICULOUS, AREN'T THEY? YOU SEE, A TREE WAS DOWN NEAR THE CEMETARY! AS I STOPPED, FOUR MEN SPRANG AT ME, TOOK MY MONEY, MY CAR...MY CLOTHES!



IT WAS UNUSUAL, BUT I BELIEVED THE MAN, AND SINCE HE WAS ABOUT MY SIZE, I PLACED MY WARD-ROBE AT HIS DISPOSAL!



I TRUST... A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE, MY FRIENDS!



OH... H-HOW DO YOU DO!



THE STRANGER SAID THAT HIS NAME WAS ARTHUR WARREN! HE HAD BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, SO THAT TIME PASSED WITHOUT OUR REALIZING...

YOU SEE, SOME FRIENDS OF MY DAUGHTER'S WILL BE IN FOR A QUIET NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! BUT THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO SEE THE POLICE ABOUT THE ROBBERY!

WE ROSE AND GENEVIEVE DREW THE DRAPES ASIDE! "I LOVE THE SUN HERE EARLY IN THE MORNING," SHE SAID, THEN, "OH, IT HAS CLEARED! THE MOON IS UP!"...

I'M AFRAID I HAVE BORED YOU!

ON THE CONTRARY! YOU MUST BE OUR GUEST...IF YOUR TIME PERMITS!

OH, NO!



THAT CAN WAIT! I AM HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION!



YES...A WANING MOON...A DYING MOON!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



ARTHUR WARREN'S
IN THEMSELVES
WERE NOT SO STARTLING,
AS THE MANNER IN
WHICH HE HAD SEEMED
TO HISS THEM! BUT THE
MOOD PASSED IN AN
INSTANT AND WAS
FORGOTTEN! THE
NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY WAS A
COMPLETE
SUCCESS...

OUR GUEST WAS
CHARMING...

I SAW IN MY DAUGHTER'S
FACE A HAPPY LIGHT...



AND I NOTICED THE ENVOIOUS
GLANCES CAST IN WARREN'S
DIRECTION BY THE OTHER
GIRLS OF THE PARTY...

AS I PASSED GENEVIEVE'S
ROOM THAT NIGHT SOMETIME
LATER, I SAW THAT HER DOOR
WAS OPEN, AND WHEN I BADE
HER GOOD NIGHT, SHE DID NOT
ANSWER... AND I THOUGHT...

I DID NOT SLEEP WELL, AS
I SENSED SOMETHING
SINISTER IN MY HOME THAT
NIGHT...

THE NEXT MORNING, NEW YEAR'S
DAY, OUR HOUSEKEEPER TOOK
GENEVIEVE'S BREAKFAST TO HER
ROOM! SHE RETURNED VERY MUCH
WORRIED! I WENT TO MY DAUGHTER...

GENEVIEVE IS
IN LOVE WITH
THAT YOUNG
MAN...



ALL NIGHT I DREAMED
SUCH HORRIBLE
DREAMS, AND
NOW... I AM SO
TIRED...

I'LL PHONE
FOR DR.
GREY!



LATER THAT DAY...

WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH
MY DAUGHTER?

I WISH I COULD TELL
YOU! NOTHING THAT FITS
COMPLETELY INTO ANY
DIAGNOSIS! ONE THING
I DO KNOW... SHE
MUST HAVE A BLOOD
TRANSFUSION AT
ONCE!



FOR A FORTNIGHT, GENEVIEVE HOVERED BETWEEN
LIFE AND DEATH, AND ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 14TH,
SHE PASSED AWAY...

MY BABY! DEAD! HER MOTHER
DIED WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD!
I HAVE LIVED FOR HER ALONE
ALL THESE YEARS! NOW... I
HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE
FOR! NOTHING...

COURAGE, MY
FRIEND... HAVE
COURAGE!



THROUGHOUT MY DAUGHTER'S LAST ILLNESS, ARTHUR WARREN HAD BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH, BUT NOW THE FUNERAL WAS OVER AND...

I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ILL-FORTUNE, MY FRIEND! IT IS BEST I LEAVE!

PLEASE DO NOT THINK SO! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME COURAGE, AND I LEANED ON YOU! YOU HAVE BEEN MUCH COMFORT!



TIME WILL HEAL YOUR WOUNDS, MR. KIRKLAND, BUT WITH ME AROUND THEY WILL NOT HEAL SO FAST! MY PRESENCE WILL ONLY BRING YOU HARSH MEMORIES!



HE WAS STILL POPULAR WITH THE LADIES ABOUT TOWN..

WARREN LEFT MY HOME, BUT NOT INTERVALE! OCCASIONALLY I MET HIM ON THE STREET AND NOW AND THEN WORD OF HIM WOULD REACH ME...



THEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH, YOUNG DIANA WELLS DIED OF THE SAME MALADY THAT HAD TAKEN MY GENEVIEVE...



And BY THE END OF THE YEAR TWELVE OF OUR LOVELY YOUNG MAIDENS HAD DIED THE SAME WAY! MEDICAL MEN FLOCKED TO US IN HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT CHECK OUR MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC!



DURING THE YEAR MY OWN HEALTH FAILED! THE FOLLOWING YEAR, WHILE I WAS AT HOME, INVALIDED, A KNOCK CAME AT THE DOOR...

I DO NOT RECEIVE VISITORS, SIR...

THIS IS IMPORTANT, MR. KIRKLAND! YOU MAY HELP ME TO CHECK THIS EPIDEMIC!



MY VISITOR, DR. PENROSE HALL BEGAN QUESTIONING ME...

BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH, MR. KIRKLAND, DO YOU RECALL THE MEETING OF A STRANGER? UNDER... ER... PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES?

INDEED I DO! A YOUNG MAN...IN RIDICULOUS CLOTHING! I STILL HAVE HIS CLOTHES!



I LED THE WAY UPSTAIRS TO WARREN'S ROOM! THERE I OPENED THE CLOTHES CLOSET...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! THE SUIT IS GONE! ONLY THIS PILE OF DUST... AND THESE ANTIQUE BONE BUTTONS!

EXACTLY, MR. KIRKLAND! WE MUST GO AT ONCE TO THE HOME OF THE LATEST VICTIM OF THIS... THIS MALADY!



I WENT WITH DR. HALL DIRECTLY TO THE HOME OF DONALD CRANE, ABOUT FIVE MILES AWAY! HIS DAUGHTER, ALICE, HAD BEEN ILL FOR TWO DAYS...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DR. HALL... YOU MEAN...

YOUR DAUGHTER IS IN GREAT DANGER, MR. CRANE! NOW HERE IS WHAT WE MUST DO...



WE WERE LED AT ONCE TO ALICE'S BEDROOM! MY HEART WAS STABBED WITH PAIN SEEING THE POOR CHILD... THEN DR. HALL WAS SPEAKING...

IN THIS CLOSET, GENTLEMEN! REMEMBER... HOLD YOUR CRUCIFIXES... DO EXACTLY AS I HAVE INSTRUCTED WHEN I SIGNAL...



THE LIGHTS WERE EXTINGUISHED... JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT SOMETHING VILE AND UNHOLY SEEMED TO PERMEATE THE ATMOSPHERE...



THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR WE SAW SOMETHING TAKE SHAPE...

NOW! HURRY!!



WE ADVANCED, EACH ONE OF US HOLDING HIS CRUCIFIX HIGH! THE THING TURNED WITH THE MOST UNHOLY EXPRESSION I EVER SAW!



BUT SO EVIL WAS IT THAT THE SIGHT OF THE HOLY CRUCIFIXES MADE IT HELPLESS! DR. HALL DROVE THE STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART!



EVIL...EVIL...THING OF NIGHT AND DEVIL! DIE...DIE...CLEANSE THYSELF IN DEATH!



THE THING BEGAN TO MELT AND TURN INTO A SLIMY, ODORFUL MASS ON THE CARPET...



YOU WILL NOT FIND YOUR MR. WARREN AROUND ANYMORE!

MR. WARREN?



I AM A DOCTOR OF METAPHYSICS, AN OCCULTIST! WHEN I READ OF YOUR DISASTERS, I BEGAN TO QUIETLY INVESTIGATE CERTAIN ANCIENT TOMBS! I READ THERE THE CASE OF ARTHUR WARREN, EXECUTED AS A VAMPIRE IN THE YEAR 1651

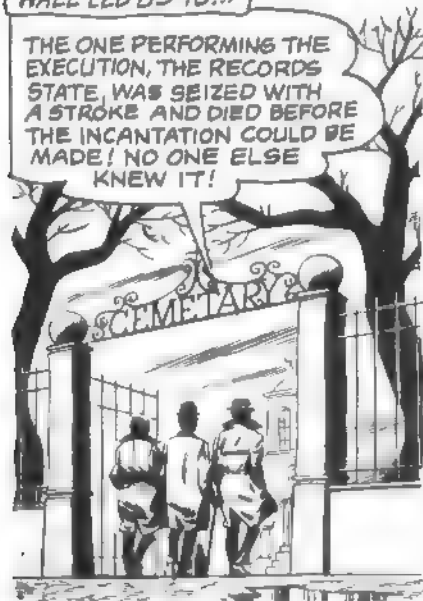


FOR THE REST OF THE EXPLANATION, COME...



HALL LED US TO...

THE ONE PERFORMING THE EXECUTION, THE RECORDS STATE, WAS SEIZED WITH A STROKE AND DIED BEFORE THE INCANTATION COULD BE MADE! NO ONE ELSE KNEW IT!



WITHOUT THE INCANTATION, WARREN REMAINED IN SUSPENDED DEATH, THE OAK SPROUTED AND GREW OVER HIS REMAINS! WHEN THE UPROOTED TREE REMOVED THE STAKE WARREN WAS A FREE VAMPIRE ONCE MORE, TAKING ANY SHAPE, LIVING ON THE BLOOD OF YOUNG MAIDENS...ONE BEFORE EACH NEW MOON...



AND SO I LIVE, KNOWING I RECEIVED IT INTO MY HOME AND ON MY HANDS IS THE BLOOD OF THIRTEEN MAIDENS...FOR UNWITTINGLY I OPENED THE DOOR TO THE BLACK HEART!! MY LIFE IS SPENT! I WAIT IMPATIENTLY FOR THE GRAVE!



WHEN BILL JOHNSON AND HIS BRIDE, ANNE, SET OUT ON THEIR HONEYMOON, THEY PLANNED A LEISURELY CRUISE THROUGH THE FLORIDA KEYS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, UNPREDICTABLE FATE INTERVENED IN THE FORM OF A SUDDEN TROPICAL HURRICANE AND THE EVENTS WHICH THEN TOOK PLACE WERE SO STRANGE AND BIZARRE THAT FEW PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE... JUDGE FOR YOURSELF!

The TRANSPARENT ONES



THE FIERCE WINDS DROVE SALT SPRAY LIKE HAIL INTO THEIR FACES, AND THE GIANT WAVES THREATENED TO CAPSIZE THE LAUNCH AT EVERY INSTANT...

OH, BILL
(COUGH)
HELP
ME!

HOLD ON TIGHT,
ANNE, OR YOU'LL BE
SWEEPED OVERBOARD

BUT AFTER NUMBING HOURS OF STRUGGLE, THEY ENTERED THE "EYE" OF THE STORM-- THE EERIE CALM AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM, AND THERE... A STRANGE SIGHT MET THEIR EYES...

LOOK,
BILL...
A
SHIP!

AN ODD ONE!
IT LOOKS AT LEAST
A HUNDRED YEARS
OLD!



AS THEY NEARED THE FORLORN HULK...

LOOK! TATTERED
SAILS! ROTTED
TIMBER! NO ONE
ABOARD! IT'S A
DERELICT!



COME ON, ANNE! I'M
GOING TO HAVE A
LOOK!

I'M AFRAID,
BILL! IT
DOESN'T
LOOK
SAFE!



NONSENSE! I'LL BET THIS
SHIP HAS WEATHERED
MANY A STORM BEFORE
THIS ONE! COME
ON BELOW!

BE SURE YOU
TIE OUR BOAT
SECURELY!



BELOW DECK... A GHASTLY SIGHT...

OH, BILL...
I... I
CAN'T
LOOK!

EASY, HONEY!
THEY'VE BEEN DEAD
A LONG TIME AND
CAN'T HURT YOU!



LOOK AT THIS OLD LOG
BOOK! IT SAYS THIS SHIP
IS OUT OF PROVINCETOWN,
CAPTAIN PHINEAS JOHN-
SON, MASTER! ANNE...
MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S
NAME WAS PHINEAS AND
HE WAS LOST AT SEA!
DO YOU SUPPOSE...?



AT THAT INSTANT, THE HURRICANE
ENGULFED THE SHIP...

BILL! THE
LAUNCH HAS
BROKEN
LOOSE!

WE'LL RIDE
IT OUT ON THIS
OLD HULK!



THEN...

OOHH!
BILL!

WH...?



WHO...
W-WHAT
ARE
YOU?

WE ARE THE DEAD!
THE DEAD WHO ONCE
MANNED THIS MYSTERY
SHIP!

FOR A HUNDRED LONG YEARS SINCE A
PLAGUE CUT SHORT OUR LIVES, WE HAVE
DRIFTED IN THIS DERELICT WHICH HOLDS
THE SECRETS OF OUR
ORRORFUL PAST!



RISE, YE ROARING WINDS
AND SEAS! PLUCK
THESE HUMANS FROM
OUR HOME AND BASH
THEIR BONES ON THE
REEF!

BILL...
HELP!
I'M
SLIPPING!

GRAB
MY
ARM!

SLIPPING, SLIDING THROUGH THE SEA,
BILL AND ANNE TRIED TO REACH THE
COMPANIONWAY...



SUDDENLY A HUGE SPAR
HURTLING DOWN, AND...

LOOK OUT!

OH!

THEY WERE TRAPPED!

BILL! THE
COMPANIONWAY...
IT'S BLOCKED

HA! NOW
DIE, YOU
FOOLS!

BUT THEN, A MIGHTY VOICE WAS
HEARD ABOVE THE STORM...

AVAST, YE DOGS! 'TIS I, CAPTAIN
PHINEAS JOHNSON! STAND BACK!!
BEWARE MY WRATH!



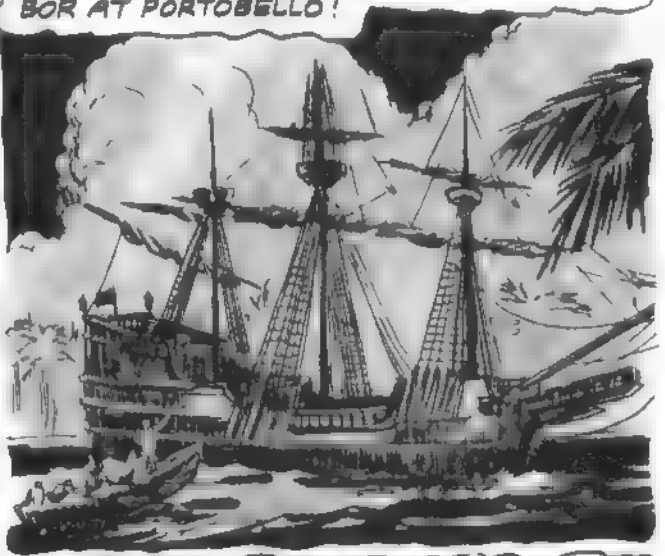
THE STARTLED CREW SULLENLY WITHDREW, MUTTERING CURSES AND LEERING EVILLY...

HAVE NO FEAR, BILL JOHNSON! IT IS I, YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER PHINEAS! I HAVE RETURNED TO WREAK MY VENGEANCE ON THIS MURDEROUS CREW!

THEN IT'S TRUE! THIS WAS YOUR SHIP!



"AYE, LAD! IN THOSE DAYS, THE BRIG 'FEARLESS' WAS A TRIM CRAFT! I WAS PROUD TO BE HER SKIPPER AS WE DROPPED ANCHOR IN THE HARBOR AT PORTOBELLO!"



"TRADE WAS GOOD, AND AFTER A FORTNIGHT WE WEIGHED ANCHOR WITH A FORTUNE IN PEARLS ABOARD! BUT MY SCURVY CREW, LED BY BLACK TOM LORD PLOTTED TO GET THOSE PEARLS..."



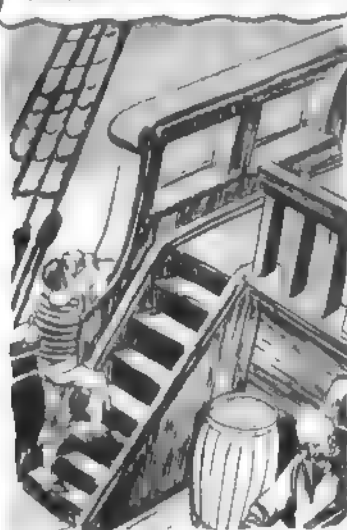
"THE DOGS MUTINIED AND TOOK MY SHIP AND THEN MAROONED ME ON A DESOLATE ISLAND!"



"THEY HAD THE PEARLS, BUT THEY WERE AFRAID TO RETURN TO PORT, SO THEY HOISTED THE BLACK FLAG AND SET TO PREYING ON MERCHANTMEN!"



"BUT NOT FOR LONG FOR UNBEKNOWN TO THEM THE WATER CASKS WERE CONTAMINATED..."



"AND BEFORE LONG THERE WAS NO LIFE ABOARD SAVE THE RAT! FROM THAT DAY TO THIS, THE BRIG HAS DRIFTED..."



THESE ARE THE RESTLESS SPIRITS OF BLACK TOM AND HIS CREW! THE PEARLS FOR WHICH THEY BARGAINED WITH THE DEVIL REMAIN HID IN THE HOLD! COME NOW AND RECLAIM THE WEALTH WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS!





COME ON, HONEY!

BILL, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE GHOST CREW IS MUTTERING!



THEY SEEM TO BE AFRAID OF CAPTAIN PHINEAS' GHOST! HE CAN HANDLE THEM!



THEY MADE THEIR WAY DOWN INTO THE MOLDY AND FESTERING BOWELS OF THE DERELICT...

UGH! A RAT!

THE PEARLS ARE HIDDEN IN A SECRET PLACE! I WILL SHOW YOU...



FIRST, I SLIDE OPEN THIS SECRET WALL PANEL...



THE GHOST OF PHINEAS OPENED THE SECRET PANEL, AND THEY GASPED AS...

OH, BILL... HOW LUSTROUS THEY ARE! THEY MUST BE WORTH MILLIONS!

NO WONDER THEY TEMPTED THE CREW TO MUTINY!



AT THAT INSTANT, THE SPIRITS OF BLACK TOM AND THE MUTINOUS CREW APPEARED AS IF FROM NOWHERE!

SO! YE FOOLISH MORTALS WOULD TAKE FROM US THE TREASURE FOR WHICH WE SINNED! NO! THAT YE SHALL NEVER DO! YOU ARE DOOMED TO DIE WITH THE SECRET!



EVEN AS I SPEAK, YOUR ESCAPE IS CUT OFF! BEHOLD... THE HATCH SLAMS SHUT WITH THE ROLLING OF THE SHIP, AND YOU ARE TRAPPED HERE IN THIS MUSTY HOLD THAT SHALL BECOME YOUR TOMB!

BILL! WE CAN'T GET OUT!

THERE IS NO WAY OUT! YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES... EITHER DIE A LINGERING DEATH OF THIRST, OR... DRINK! YES, DRINK THE POLLUTION THAT CAUSED OUR DEATHS!



YOU ARE MISTAKEN, BLACK TOM LORD! YE SHALL NOT FOIL ME A SECOND TIME! THE HOUR OF MY REVENGE IS AT HAND FOR WHICH I HAVE WAITED LONG! THIS NIGHT THE TIMBERS OF THIS ONCE PROUD SHIP SHALL FIND PERMANENT REST, AND YE SHALL BE DESTROYED BY FIRE!



SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A GRINDING CRASH...

WE MUST HAVE RUN AROUND!

THE LANTERN WAS KNOCKED FROM BILL'S HAND AND FELL ON A PILE OF TAR-SOAKED DEBRIS...



AND ALMOST INSTANTLY A HUGE FIRE SPREAD OVER THE HOLD...

OH, BILL, WHAT CAN WE DO?

WATER IS POURING IN THE CRASH MUSTVE KNOCKED A HOLE IN THE HULL! COME ON!

FIRE SHALL BE YOUR AGENT OF DESTRUCTION, BLACK TOM!



THE ANCIENT HOLD BECAME A FLAMING DEATH TRAP!

CEASE YOUR STRUGGLES YE SCUM! THERE IS NO ESCAPE! BURN AND PLAGUE THIS EARTH NO MORE...

WEEEEEYAAH!



MEANWHILE, BILL AND ANNE FOUND A HUGE HOLE IN THE BOW OF THE SHIP, AND...

WE'RE FREE! SWIM FOR SHORE, HONEY! LUCKILY IT ISN'T FAR!



AT LAST, SAFELY ON SHORE, THEY STOOD IN AWE AND WATCHED THE FIRE BURN ITSELF OUT...

WHAT A NIGHTMARE! BILL, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE BECAME OF CAPTAIN PHINEAS?

I DON'T KNOW, ANNE, BUT I IMAGINE HIS SPIRIT IS AT PEACE NOW, WHILE BLACK TOM WENT ON TO SOMETHING FAR WORSE!



AFTER A WHILE, THE WEARY COUPLE SET OUT ALONG THE COAST IN SEARCH OF HELP! AT DAWN THEY CAME UPON A FISHING VILLAGE! HALF-STARVED AND EXHAUSTED, THEY WERE TAKEN IN BY AN OLD FISHERMAN! AFTER THEY RESTED AT HIS HUT, THEY PERSUADED HIM AND SOME OTHER FOLK TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE SHIPWRECK, IN SEARCH OF THE PEARLS!

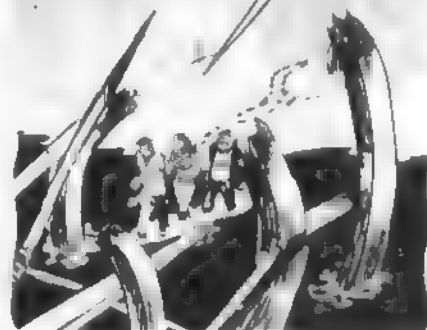
AS THEY APPROACHED THE SCENE...

WELL, THERE'S THE WRECK OF THE "FEARLESS"! IT RAN AROUND AND BURNED A FEW DAYS AGO... BUT MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE PEARLS, IF THEY WEREN'T DESTROYED BY FIRE!

WHAT PEARLS? THAT OLD WRECK HAS BEEN HERE SINCE BEFORE MY GRANDFATHER WAS BORN!

W-WHY IT CAN'T BE... WE WERE ON THIS SHIP! IT WAS A DERELICT AND THERE WERE...

YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY ANY MORE, BILL, OR HE REALLY WILL THINK WE'RE CRAZY!



BUT TO THE OLD MAN'S ASTONISHMENT, BILL LED HIM TO THE SECRET SLIDING PANEL IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SHIP, AND...



THERE! DO YOU BELIEVE OUR STORY NOW?

I--I DON'T KNOW! THIS WRECK HAS BEEN HERE FOR NEARLY A CENTURY! BRR! COME ON! THE SOONER I GET OFF THIS OLD HULK, THE BETTER I'LL FEEL!



THE END

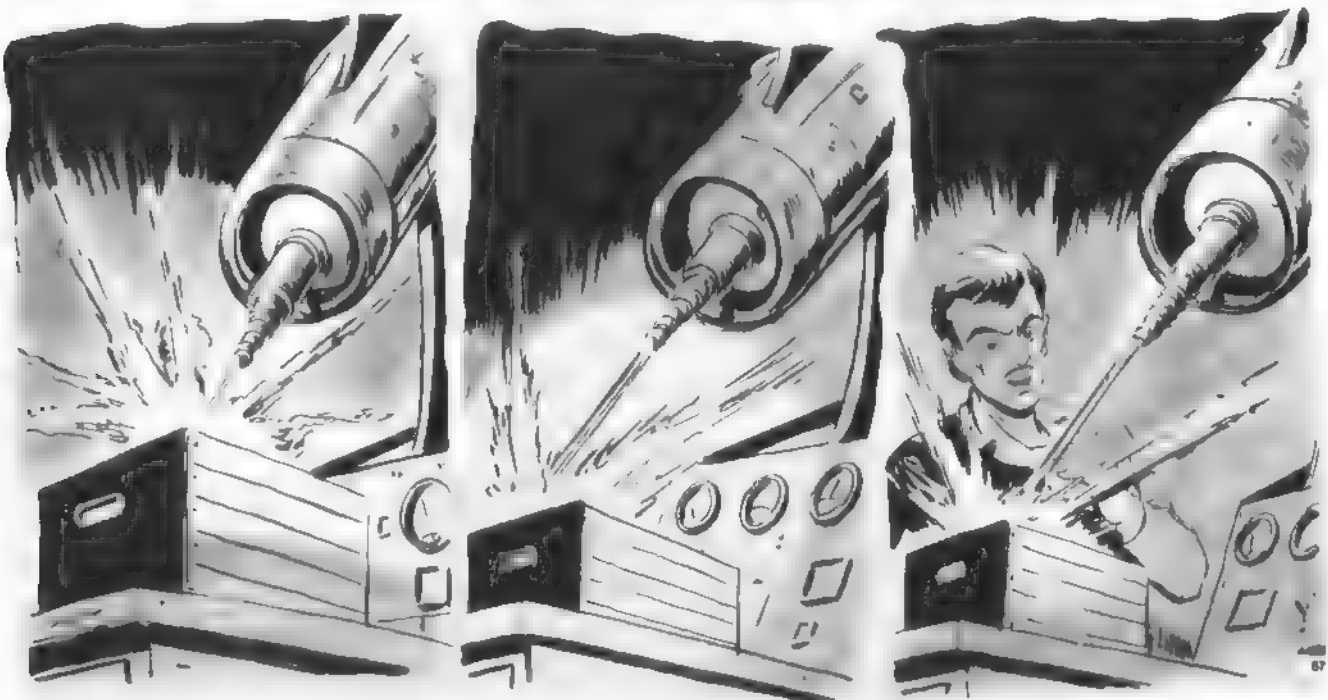


I NEED MORE POWER
FOR THE MICRO-SWITCH
HURRY OR WE'LL MISS
THE REACTOR SET-UP!

KEEP YOUR EYE
ON THE NEEDLE
AND STOP ACTING
LIKE A WORRY
WART!

THE DEVIL'S MACHINE

THE NEEDLE SPUTTERS AND... THE BOX GETS SMALLER... AND SMALLER!!!



LOOK AT IT! LESS
THAN HALF THE
ORIGINAL SIZE! HOW
DOES IT WORK?

IT'S SIMPLE! JUST A RAY
THAT REARRANGES THE
STRUCTURAL MOLECULES IN
AN OBJECT TO CHANGE THE
OBJECT TO ANY SIZE I
DESIRE!

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT IT'LL MEAN
IN SPACE TRAVEL? HEAVY CARGO
CAN NOW BE REDUCED TO THE
SIZE OF A WATCHBOX AND RESTORED
TO ORIGINAL SIZE AT DESTINATION!

I SEE A
FORTUNE IN IT
FOR US!

NEVER! HOW CAN YOU
THINK OF PERSONAL GAIN
WHEN WE HAVE THE
ANSWER TO WHAT LIES
BEYOND THE STARS!

OKAY!
OKAY! JUST
A LITTLE
IDEA
THAT'S
ALL!

I HAVE TO GO OUT FOR A
WHILE, JONAH! KEEP AN EYE
ON THINGS UNTIL I
GET BACK!

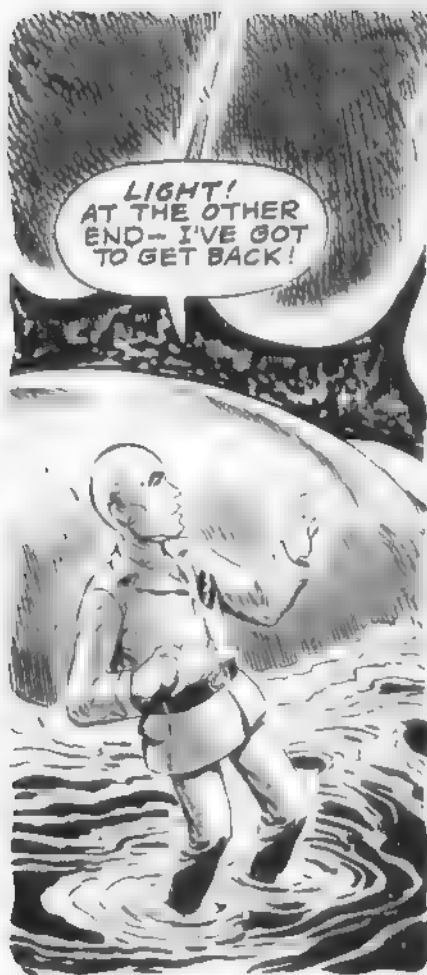
SURE!

THE FOOL! CAN'T HE SEE
WHAT THIS MACHINE
MEANS? AND HE'S
WILLING TO GIVE IT
AWAY!

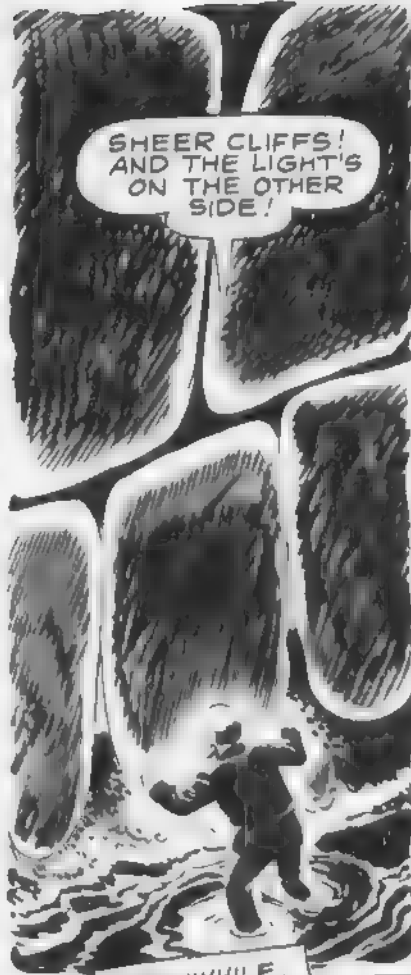
DEEP IN THOUGHT,
JONAH WAS TOO
ENGROSSED TO
NOTICE WHERE HIS
HAND HAD STRAYED!

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING
TO GET THAT MACHINE
AWAY FROM HIM...
BUT HOW?





LIGHT!
AT THE OTHER
END - I'VE GOT
TO GET BACK!



SHEER CLIFFS!
AND THE LIGHT'S
ON THE OTHER
SIDE!



WHAT A
BEAST! NEVER
SAW ANYTHING
LIKE THAT
BEFORE!

MEANWHILE..

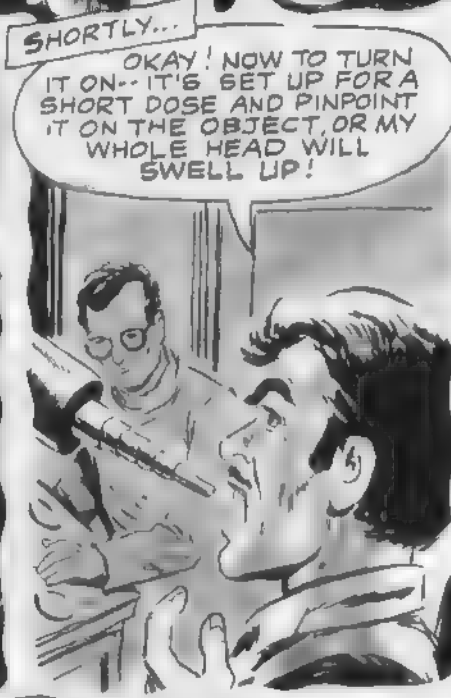


OWWWW! THERE GOES
THAT TOOTH AGAIN! I'D
BETTER GET TO A
DENTIST ONE OF
THESE DAYS!



THOSE
CLIFFS ARE
TOO SHEER
TO CLIMB,
BUT THIS
RAY GUN
CAN BLAST
STEPS INTO
THEM!





MASK of HORROR



ONE NIGHT INSIDE THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LAB OF HENRY CABOT...

CAREFUL! THE ELECTRIC ARC HAS REACHED ITS OPTIMUM POINT OF CHANGE! CUT THE DYNAMO!

THERE IT IS, ARCHER! THERE IS THE NEW PLASTIC WE'VE SOUGHT! NOTE IT HAS REACHED A STATE OF DENSE FLUX!

UNBELIEVABLE, HENRY! IT SEEMS TO HAVE A LIFE OF ITS OWN! IT RISES AND FALLS RHYTHMICALLY EVEN AFTER ITS ENERGY SOURCE IS CLOSED!





DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A GREAT DISCOVERY THIS IS, ARCHER? A PLASTIC AS FLEXIBLE AS RUBBER AND STRONG AS STEEL AND TWICE AS USEFUL!

A FORTUNE CAN BE MADE FROM IT! YES, I CAN SEE!



LATER...

WHAT A FABULOUS DISCOVERY THIS IS WITH UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES! THINK OF THE MEDICAL AND MILITARY USES A PLASTIC LIKE THIS CAN BE ADAPTED TO!

A MILLION USES! CASTS, PLATES... BULLET PROOF VESTS... ARMOR... WHY ITS USE IS ENDLESS!



AFTERWARDS INSIDE THE SUMPTUOUS CABOT MANSION...

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TROUBLING ME, ARCHER--AND THAT'S A METHOD OF PROCESSING THE PLASTIC! COME IN AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME...



DARLING! YOU'RE HOME EARLY!

--AND WE HOLD THE PATENT RIGHTS ON IT! ARCHER, OUR FUTURE IS SECURE--DRIVE ON, BRODY!

YES, S.R.!



HELLO, DEAR! I BROUGHT ARCHER HERE TO IRON OUT SOME BOTTLENECKS IN OUR PROCESS! HOW'S THINGS?

FINE I GUESS, DARLING--IT'S JUST THAT I WISH YOU'D BE HOME MORE OFTEN!



SOON I WILL, LOUISE! OH, HERE ARE THE NOTES, ARCHER! LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU ELIMINATE THE TIRE SOME PROCESS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE IT FASTER!

ALL RIGHT, HENRY! GOOD NIGHT!

AND HIS WIFE IGNORES ME AS IF I WERE A SERVANT! I'LL SHOW HER!

WITH THIS MASK, I'LL PLAY THE PART OF A FIEND ON THE LOOSE FOR VICTIMS! I'LL KILL RANDOMLY.. THEN STRIKE AT CABOT! NO ONE WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF MY MOTIVE THEN!

[LATER IN THE LAB...]

THAT POMPUS FOOL! HE EXPECTS ME TO BE HIS SLAVE! WELL, HE PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! THIS FORMULA HE GAVE ME WAS ALL I WANTED!

I'VE PLANNED FOR THIS MOMENT! NOW WITH THE COMPLETE FORMULA IN MY HANDS, CABOT IS THROUGH! HE'LL DIE VIOLENTLY-- AND I'LL TAKE OVER EVERYTHING! BECAUSE HERE-- HERE IS MY MASTERPIECE!

AND SO, A FEW NIGHTS LATER AT A LOVER'S LANE IN A LOCAL PARK...

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING, FRED?

AW, C'MON, RELAX! DON'T SPOOK ON ME NOW, HONEY!



AND A SHORT WHILE LATER ON A SIDE STREET...

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE BEHIND ME! UGH! THESE DESERTED STREETS...



THE NEXT FEW WEEKS SAW TERROR UNLIMITED! THE MONSTER STRUCK EVERYWHERE, BRINGING HORROR INTO THE HEARTS OF A SHOCKED PUBLIC!



HA HA!

ARGH!

WHAT IN--
ARRGH!

YOU'RE VICTIM THREE... JUST A BEGINNING FOR THE GRAND FINALE!



JUST LOOK AT THIS, ARCHER! HOW GHASTLY! ONE'S AFRAID TO SLEEP AT NIGHT!

YES, CABOT, ISN'T ONE?

BUT TONIGHT YOU WILL SLEEP FOREVER!



MANIAC MONSTER
ON THE LOOSE

THAT EVENING HENRY CABOT DECIDED TO WALK HOME...

I'LL WAIT UNTIL HE APPROACHES THAT BUILDING, THEN IT WILL BE ALL OVER!

SUDDENLY!

WHAT IN-- IT'S HIS WIFE!

HENRY! YOU'RE ON TIME! NOW WE CAN GO TO THE NIGHT CLUB AS YOU HAD SUGGESTED!

WE'LL BE ALONE, DEAR! I GAVE BRODY THE NIGHT OFF!

NOW!

ARCHER RECOILED AND MELTED INTO THE SHADOWS! HIS PLANS HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY STYMIED! BUT NOW, SOME THING URGED HIM ON... ON...

I MUST KILL! I WANT TOO SEE HER AGONIZED FACE! HA! HA!

AND THE KILLER INSTINCT DROVE ARCHER OVER A PATH OF BLOOD THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO CABOT'S MANSION!

I HAVE AN UNCANNY SENSATION THAT SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME! JUST IMAGINATION, I GUESS!

DIE! DIE!

HENRY! THIS TIME YOU'LL SLEEP FOREVER! DON'T LOOK SHOCKED...IT'S ME... ARCHER!

ARCHER!
Y-YOU'RE THE FIEND?

YES, HENRY! FOR YEARS YOU'VE HAD EVERYTHING, AND I'VE ALWAYS RUN A POOR SECOND! BUT NO MORE! WHO WOULD THINK THAT THE FIEND WOULD HAVE A REASON TO KILL YOU!

NO! NO!
YARGHHH!

GOODBYE, HENRY! I'LL BE YOUR SUCCESSOR! IT'S IRONIC THAT YOUR OWN INVENTION KILLED YOU IN THE END, DIDN'T IT? WHA--?

HELP!
HELP!

HENRY'S WIFE'S SCREAMS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF HER NEIGHBORS WHO SUMMONED THE POLICE, AND --

IT'S THE FIEND!
STOP HIM!

TOO BAD I COULDN'T FINISH HER OFF!...MUST RUN FASTER, OR THEY'LL CATCH ME!

ARCHER RAN AS IF THE VERY DEVILS WERE AFTER HIM...AND WHEN HE REACHED HIS ROOM,

...THEY'LL QUESTION ME, NO DOUBT! YES, I HEAR THEM COMING! HA! HA! I'LL SAY I WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY THE FIEND! THEY'LL NEVER FIND THE PLASTIC! I-I-I'LL--



SHOCKING, ISN'T IT? BUT THE ALMOST LIVING PULSATING PLASTIC LEFT A PERMANENT FACE OF THE FIEND ON YOU! LISTEN, ARCHER, THAT KNOCKING ON THE DOOR...IT'S THE POLICE...

The End